

Guo Ping dances with sharks at the aquarium in Beijing Zoo.

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Yiwanju, a restaurant specializing in old Beijing cuisines in Fang-zhuang.

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Composer captures 'Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon' fervor.

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China Signs Global Treaty

By Li Dan

China has signed the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings, although the Standing Committee of the 9th National People's Congress declared that China would not be restrained by Article 20, Section 1 of the treaty.

Twenty-nine countries have signed the treaty, which is the first international measure specifically targeting terrorist bombings.

The State Council says signing up to the treaty will help the fight against "splittists" and other hostile forces both at home and abroad. It will also help China improve its international image and safeguard China's interests.

World Trade Center Registers Homestead in Beijing Olympic Park

By Zhao Pu

The edifice of the World Trade Center Beijing (WTCBJ) will tower over the future Olympic Park designed for 2008 Olympiad in Beijing, said sources from the 5th Beijing-Hong Kong Economic Cooperation Symposium last Wednesday.

First established in 1987, WTCBJ joined the World Trade Center Association (WTCA) as a formal member in the same year. Without its own building so far, WTCBJ has been recognized as an institution organized by the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade Beijing Sub-council (CCPITBJ), providing business services and contributing to Sino-foreign trade and communication.

According to sources, the imposing WTCBJ building complex will occupy a total area of 340,000 square meters in the village, hosting the WTCBJ Tower, a five-star hotel, a conference and exhibition center, a recreational square, and a shopping mall. The new giant will hopefully become a symbolic construction for the capital, providing services in 10 areas of world trade, international financial services, international trading legal services and international personnel exchange.

4.5 billion yuan will be poured into this future project, with the money hopefully coming mainly from government investment and international financing, revealed Chief of CCPIT Beijing Branch, Yao Wang. As for the height of the tower, sources from WTCBJ indicate that it will probably reach about 300 meters.

Officials Exit Council

By Shi Xinyu

Pin Yong Lai, president of Motorola (China) Electronics, was elected chairman of Beijing Foreign Investment Enterprises Association (BFIEA) at its fourth congress in Landmark Towers on Wednesday. It is the first time this position has been given to a candidate outside of government.

This congress also gave more association council seats to representatives from high-tech foreign enterprises including Nokia, General Electric and Hewlett-Packard.

According to an association spokesman, this innovation reflects the rise in foreign investment in Beijing. From January to September, the industrial added value of foreign enterprises in Beijing grew 30.1%, revenue 45.1% and profits 200% compared to last year.

Witnesses Gain Rights



The sign calls for a "zheng ren" (witness)

Photo by Cheng Gong

Regulation encourages court attendance

By Zhang Peng / Shan Jinliang

No witnesses are present in nearly 85 percent of trials in the capital city today. But that may change under the impact of a new regulation on trial evidence recently introduced to Beijing courts.

Almost all witness testimony at trial comes in the form of written statements, which makes it difficult to determine its truthfulness. To introduce more reliable spoken testimony will require addressing some key concerns among witnesses, say legal analysts.

Liu Zhen, a judge from Xicheng District Court handling divorce cases, said plenty of people come to court to seek legal advice on divorce and bigamy cases. "But few file suit," says Liu, "as it is hard to gather evidence."

Some women, she says, fail to find witnesses because of traditional "keep it in the family" thinking.

Thus assembling even written testimony can prove a struggle.

To overcome this situation, Xuanwu District Court judges advised paying witnesses as an effective means of compensating them for their cooperation at a trial. But one case involving a dispute between two neighbors changed all that.

When it was discovered that one of the witnesses had been paid to give evidence in favor of one of the women, the court promptly ruled the evidence suspicious and inadmissible.

"But who would appear as a witness for you without some kind of special relationship?" said the losing party. Her plea fell on deaf ears, but with this case, Xuanwu Court's quietly dropped its advice.

Thus, analysts argue one of the key reasons behind witness failures is cultural: Chinese people are especially reluctant about offending others.

But another, they say, may be fear of court itself.

Attempted rapist Liu Gui'an, a villager from Rizhao City of Shandong Province received a three-year jail sentence after the court had heard witness Hu Xiujian's testimony.

As soon as he was released from jail, Liu killed Hu and her 8-year-old boy. When the local police investigated the case, no witnesses stepped forward on behalf of the murder victim.

To protect witnesses from such revenge, the new regulation stipulates anyone who commits such an act will be fined, arrested or sentenced or in the event of a civil case upgraded to a criminal case.

A Beijing resident was fined 1,000 yuan for threatening a witness in a divorce trial at the municipal Second Intermediate Court recently. The regulation also permits witnesses to accept financial compensation for their

trouble.

Legal analysts say this regulation does not go far enough in protecting witnesses. Chinese courts do not jail people for witness harassment as they do in the USA.

Chen Weidong, a professor at Renmin University, worries the law has no preventative muscle as it solely functions after the harassment has occurred.

If the court demands, witnesses must attend unless they are minors, seriously ill, disabled or due to other unavoidable reasons. If the witness is absent, his or her testimony cannot be accepted by the court if that testimony contradicts other evidence given at the trial.

Analysts agree the regulation nonetheless represents progress, although the law still cannot truly compel all witnesses in all circumstances to come to court. Smooth enforcement remains an issue.

Farewell to Fakes

Lawmakers warn Olympic counterfeiters to watch out

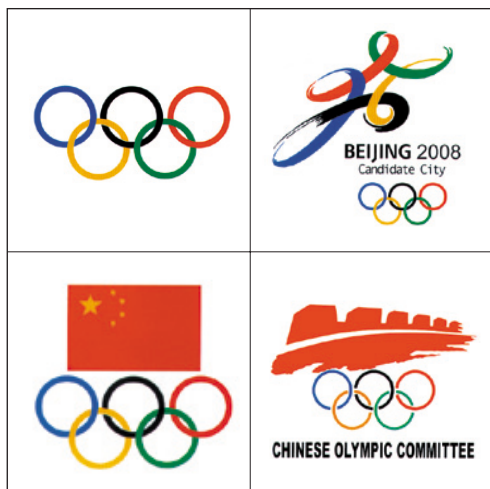
By Guo Tingting / Wang Yanyan

Nobody can escape when it comes into effect on Sunday, November 11. No work unit, no enterprise or organization in Beijing can avoid prosecution for infringing Beijing Olympic Intellectual Property Law. Better know your regulations:

1. Infringement of what? The emblem (five rings), flag, motto, the word "Olympic" itself, of Olympics, of Olympic Games, as well as Chinese Olympics marks, emblems, logos and related Olympic symbols relating to Beijing 2008 are all protected by Olympic Intellectual Property Law - Without authorization, neither organizations nor individuals are allowed to use them.

2. What constitutes infringement? Any use of the Olympic symbol without proper authorization, including in advertisements, products, management, publicity, performance or other activities constitutes infringement. Knowingly selling goods that bear a counterfeit Olympic symbol will also constitute infringement. Sales, storage, transportation or mailing are also covered.

3. Why was this law made? It is quite common for Olympic hosts to introduce regulations to ensure the interests of sponsors and the International Olympic Committee (IOC). The development of the Olympics demands protection by an Olympic intellectual property law.



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New Copyright Law Comes Closer to WTO

By Shan Jinliang

The drafting amendment to China's Copyright Law (1991) was approved by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC) on October 26. Experts say it marks the country's intellectual property rights legal system coming into line with World Trade Organization (WTO) rules.

The changes from 56 items to the present 60 actually include substantial amounts of new

content, including several deletions, says Zhang Ping, associate professor from the Law School of Beijing University who has attended the approval session of the law amendment. The NPC carried out the amendments in three years to face three great changes in the country: the readjustments after the shift from a planned economy to market-oriented economy; the challenges from new technologies, and digital technologies in particular;

and the gap between the requirements of WTO rules and the current copyright law. One of the focal points in the amendment of the Item No. 43 says radio and TV stations should pay for published audio/visual products with approval of the copywriters. The law of 1991 stipulates the stations should pay the foreign copywriters whereas their Chinese counterparts are not paid, which is considered as special treatment to foreigners.

Zhang identified five important changes from all the amended items: 1) Enlargment of the range of copyright, which includes new construction work copyright, and acrobatic arts copyright. 2) The clearer identification of the property rights, renting rights and information network transmission rights; for instance, it is a violation of law to publish one's works in the Internet without copyright approval. 3) Establishment of collective management

system. Non-profitable organizations will be in charge of the lawsuits and arbitrations for all copywriters concerned in the case. 4) Copywriters are entitled to raise protection measures prior to the lawsuit for products they believe are being copied. 5) Amendment of copyright limitation. For example, profit-making public performances are considered as an act of violation of law if the performers cannot get permission from the copywriter.

Personal Financial Assets Grow

By Xiao Rong

The total amount of individual financial assets of China has reached more than 10,000 billion yuan, said Qiu Xiaohua, vice director of National Bureau of Statistics, at last week's China Commercial Capital Forum.

The continuous accumulation of individual assets has led to the abundance of China's nongovernmental financial resources, according to Qiu. China's personal financial assets total 10,000 billion yuan, with individual savings deposits of over 7,000 billion yuan, personal foreign currency deposits of almost \$80 billion, personal stocks and bonds of over 1,000 billion yuan and personal cash of over 1,000 billion yuan.

With the decline of the global economy, China's economy maintains its growth, Qiu added. The turnover of consumer goods among urban and rural residents has increased to 10.1% over the first 9 months of this year, higher than the rate of 9.7% of the whole of last year, which demonstrates an increase in domestic demand.

"The steady growth of domestic demand has to a certain extent offset the unfavorable influence of the world economy," Qiu said.

China Drafts New Criteria for Top Tourist Cities

By Jiang Zhong

The China National Tourism Administration (CNTA) is currently drawing guidelines for new criteria to select the country's top tourist cities. Although China has already identified 125 top cities, the new criteria are expected to bring the tourism industry into line with the world market. Some experts in the field of tourism have been invited to offer their assistance.

Dr. Erik Holm-Petersen, specialist in tourism planning, Michael MacNulty, former Director General of the Irish Tourist Administration and Robert Cleverdon, specialist in tourism marketing, will advise the new criteria drafting committee. They visited some scenic spots in Beijing and had discussions with representatives from Beijing's tourism administrations and agencies.

Dr. Holm-Petersen said he saw great future opportunities for China. He said that highest quality service and security were important for international tourists. He was very pleased to hear that very tight security measures had been taken by Beijing International Airport. As to Beijing's role in the future development of Chinese tourism, he indicated that Beijing should function as the gateway to the country's tourism market.

However, Beijing should enhance its performance in certain areas. One suggestion involved setting up information stands in downtown areas and important scenic spots to supply visitors with maps and pamphlets. He added that the government's plan to host a green 2008 Olympics would make the city even more attractive.

Dr. Holm-Petersen and his partners left Beijing for Dalian on October 26, winding up their visit to China on November 6.



The two foreign experts in discussion

Photo by Jiang Zhong



Nobody bought the software yesterday morning at Jianguomen Post Office when it first went on sale

Photo by Fan Jiwen

Send an Electronic-Paper Letter

By Shan Jinliang

From this Saturday, any computer users can send an email which turns into a paper letter just before reaching the receiver's hands.

The new business, called PC-Letter, has recently been introduced by the State Post Bureau. The PC-Letter users are supposed to purchase special mailing software, costing 487 yuan, and an electric stamp card before they can enjoy the service. The users send an

email to the designated post office and the email is then automatically printed onto paper and sent to the receiver in the traditional way. The service will be available 24 hours a day in 18 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions, including Beijing.

Mainly serving enterprises, the service will save time costs on the road between two cities. A PC-Letter to a provincial capital will arrive on the day it is sent, or the following morning. A

one-page letter will cost 2 yuan, rising to 3.5 yuan for 4 pages.

"The service will mainly be used between work units, or from unit to person and the further it travels, the more convenient it will be," said Yang Hairong, a professor from Beijing Post & Communications University, "With insufficient advertising, it should be some time before it is widely accepted." But he is confident the business will reap abundant profits in the long run.

Lijiang to Make Visitors Reach for Wallets

By Li Dan

The mountain tourist town of Lijiang will for the first time soon charge visitors an entrance fee for a glimpse of its beauty.

Lijiang will implement a through ticket system, costing 80 yuan, including some of the most well known scenic spots like Lion Hill. This risky decision came out of a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) workshop on cultural heritage management held from October 8-19 in Lijiang. More than 400 experts from 22 countries gathered to discuss the issue of protecting regional cultural heritage.

Lijiang's town-protection committee revealed all profits from ticket sales will be put into basic reconstruction of the ancient city's roads, bridges and river system, as well as maintenance of important buildings, and subsidies for local residents on low incomes.

Lijiang is located in southwestern Yunnan Province, covering an area of nearly 4 square kilometers with unique scenery and lush vegetation. The ancient town was originally built at the beginning



An atmospheric alley of Lijiang Old Town

of the Yuan Dynasty and is home to the Naxi people and the "Dong Ba Culture". Lijiang was listed as a site of World Cultural Heritage by UNESCO in 1997.

As to the reason why Lijiang is beginning to charge visitors, the head of the town-protection committee explained, "We are suffering from an extreme lack of

funds for protection and maintenance." Many maintenance projects are currently being financed from World Bank loans since the local government lacks sufficient resources. It is estimated that Lijiang will generate an annual income of 200 million yuan after selling entrance tickets, thus establishing a stable financial resource.

CAAC Changes Schedules & Increases Flights

By Li Dan

CAAC (the General Civil Aviation Administration of China) has changed flight schedules for this winter and next spring, from October 28 to March 30 next year. The plan covers overseas airlines flying into China, Hong Kong and Macau airlines arrive in the mainland, and domestic airlines connecting tourist cities.

A senior Air China official explained that there would be more flights between tourist cities. From now on, Air China will offer 1425 flights each week, among which there are 274 international flights, 1053 domestic flights and 98 regional flights, all marked increases on last year. "We'll operate more flights to cities like Xiamen, Guangzhou, Haikou and Sanya because the end of the year is the busiest tourism

season in south China and Southeast Asia," the official commented.

However, the pricing system will remain the same during the coming flight season. Apart from discounts on the present 20 domestic airlines, there's still no possibility of implementing a discount system on other lines, including the golden "Jing Hu Line" (Beijing-Shanghai).

China Launches AIDS Intervention Project

By Shan Jinliang

A project to prevent the transmission of AIDS from mother to infant was launched in central China's AIDS-stricken Henan province last week. The project, overseen by the UN Children's Foundation, China's Ministry of Public Health and the local Henan Provincial Bureau of Public Health, will mainly target Shihe District of Xinyang City and Shangcai County of Zhumadian City of the province.

In the most populous province in China, Henan's Wenlou Village in Shangcai County has 241 inhabitants out of 3,170 who are infected with AIDS, according to statistics from a press conference of the State Council in September. The project requires the establishment of responsible reporting, construction of networks at county and village levels, and professional training of public health and family planning staff. The main tasks also include the discovery and reporting of target groups, monitoring of AIDS patients and HIV positive ones, and health care management of HIV positive mothers during pregnancy and the birth process.

Henan Provincial Public Health administrations asked other regions in the province to follow the project as a model and work on the prevention and control of AIDS mother-infant transmission.

Chinese Scientist Discovers New Area in Human Brain

Chinese scientists have recently discovered an area inside the human brain which is believed to be closely related to human learning and memory capacities.

Shu Siyun, a Chinese professor of neurological science at the Guangzhou-based First Medical University of the People's Liberation Army, discovered a group of spindly cells in the brain of a rat in the 1980s. Shu's recent research shows this marginal area also exists in the brains of human and other mammals.

Experts say Shu's discovery may also unveil the mystery of how the other "memory modules" of the human brain, including previously discovered hippocampus and amygdaloid nuclei, are interconnected, as the newly discovered area is located at the center of these "modules".

Experts believe the discovery provides new clues for research into the mechanism of some learning and memory hindrance diseases, and will help toward a cure for senile dementia and Parkinson's disease. (Xinhua)

Solids Vibrate like Liquids

By Li Dan

The discovery of microcosmic vibrations in pebbles by a Chinese scientist is set to take earthquake prediction techniques to even more sophisticated levels.

Professor Gao Houxiu of the Material Institute of Tianjin University has recently observed a liquid-like vibration in the microcosm of pebbles under the microscope, which appears one moment and disappears the next, sometimes only rotating in a three-dimensional pattern.

Experts say the research has surpassed the world's most advanced level in the field. It is said earthquake prediction based on this discovery will definitely be of inestimable economic and social value.

Research also shows that the natural process of inner rupture in solids looks like the splitting of rocks in crustal movement. Using insights from the research, scientists have made successful predictions for earthquakes in North China, Sichuan and Xinjiang from 1995 to 1997.

Farewell, PT Zhonghao

By Wang Yanyan

The China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC) announced that Shenzhen Zhonghao Group, known as PT (Particular Transfer) Zhonghao, will be forbidden from entering the stock market from October 22, according to Clause 158 of *Corporation Law* and the regulation for deficit units in the stock market.

Thus, neither its A shares (0015) nor B shares (2015) will appear on the stock market. PT Zhonghao has become the third company to be forbidden from entering the market following Shanghai Narcissus Import & Export and Chongqing Yugang Trioxide.

It is said that PT Zhonghao has continuously been in the red from 1997. Its 2001 interim financial report has even provided an audit that does not include an evaluation from a CPA. The group was refused a period of grace by the Shenzhen Stock Exchange.

Gaoqing to Become New Shareholder

By Wang Yanyan

Shanghai Gaoqing Digital Video Frequency announced last Friday that it has held 18,662,500 shares of Shanghai Founder Yanzhong Science & Technologies Group. This purchase makes up 5% of total sales. Thus, Gaoqing has become the fourth one who holds more than 5% of the capital stock of Shanghai Founder following China Bao'an Group Joint Stock, Peking University Founder Group and Beijing Yuxing.

The spokesman of Shanghai Gaoqing indicated last Friday that they have made up their minds to be the biggest shareholder. Therefore, they will put forward a temporary proposal aiming at becoming a member of the board of directors in Founder Technology.

Meanwhile, Founder Technology say they welcome the move. Their spokesman says that it illustrates shareholders' trust in and support for the new board.

Hitachi to Invest \$818 Million

By Xu Ying

Japanese chip-making conglomerate Hitachi said on last Tuesday it would invest \$818 million in China over the next five years as part of plans to ramp up sales and production there.

Hitachi, which has already invested \$170 million in China, said in a statement that it aimed to increase its annual sales in China to \$4.5 billion in the year ending March 2006 from \$1.15 billion in 2000/01.

A spokesman said the company had also set a goal of increasing the made-in-China share of the firm's total production to about seven percent from 2.5 percent now in order to improve competitiveness.

Hitachi joins a lengthening list of Japanese manufacturing giants, that are shifting production to China to capitalize on that country's low labor costs and growing engineering skills, as a result of their margins squeezed by high costs at home.

The company said it would strengthen various businesses in China including computer software, semiconductors, TFT LCD displays for use in cell phones and notebook PCs, air conditioners, mobile phones and projection televisions.

Hitachi already has 26 affiliates in China, employing 12,000 people.

Wu Shihong – Gone with the Depression?

By Yang Xiao

Oct. 25, Tsinghua University

"You know TCL IT Group GM Wu Shihong will come to our campus to give a speech? Have you booked a ticket?" Zhang Jing, a law major asked her companion. She wanted to listen to Wu's Speech. But the tickets have already been sold out.

Thursday evening last week the hall was crowded. People even stood in the aisles. There were still a lot of students waiting outside. Lucky guy Li Hua, MBA candidate, had found a seat; he said to *Beijing Today*, "I've come here for two hours just to get some courage. She is a miracle."

The audience was unaware that the miracle is about to end. Insider news reveals Wu may leave the TCL core management team due to her strategic mistakes, according to one Chinese economic newspaper.

Cinderella Story

"Hello everybody, I chose this special dress for the speech, but I am afraid the tall desk in front of me will play down my emotions."

Wu always makes jokes that are hard to understand with aggressive gestures and loads of self-confidence.

Wu let audience look at the big photos hanging around the hall, which recorded her footprints that rise to fame.

Wu Shihong did not receive a high education. In the early '80s, she was a nurse in a tiny hospital in Beijing's Xuanwu District. Her everyday job was to clean the floor. She had suffered from a blood illness for 4 years.

Wu moved to IBM in 1983, but still as a cleaner. After she got a part-time higher education degree, her life changed completely. She struggled into the IBM sales department. "I once lived in a peasant room without toilet or heating, but at that time I was able to rent a one-bedroom apartment with my salesperson's salary." Wu still looks happy.

Although she often faces competition from a lot of talented and well-educated male colleagues, she became GM of IBM (China) Sales Department 15 years later. Then she changed to Microsoft



as GM of Microsoft (China).

Wu's Microsoft experience was not good. She had to balance all parts of the company's interest. On December 1, 1999 she resigned and stayed at home to write a book named *Flying against the Wind* telling her story. She quickly became a celebrity and national hero struggling against a powerful foreign cor-

poration in the country. At that time the Sino-US relations were severely strained.

From Professional Manager to Entrepreneur

In Wu's Career, TCL acts as a discoverer, and yet a terminator. TCL is a state-owned home appliance manufacturer that holds the No.3 best selling position in the color TV field. From 1998 TCL decided to expand its business model into the IT field. It finally appointed Wu as President of its newly founded IT Group.

Wu accepted the invitation and began her new career. "I have no idea about home appliances, it's a whole new world."

Wu's task is to look for new business in the IT field. "Before I entered TCL, I was just a professional manager. I did what my boss said. Now I have to be an entrepreneur. I must plan my company's move."

But Wu has failed to realize that she lacks ability in strategic planning. The three steps she took all proved wrong.

Wu's first step involved making a portal named ejiajia.com

depending on all of TCL resources, TVs, computers and so on. Unfortunately ejiajia was born at the wrong time. The Internet depression forced it to shift to vertical e-learning.

On her second step, Wu promoted a new kind of TV named HiD. The device can link to the Internet. But the price is so high that few are sold. Many electronic shops think HiD is just an exhibit.

On her third step, Wu took the shoes of a Zhongguancun Hi-tech company's Chairman of the board. But insiders think it is not Wu's will.

Gone with the Depression?

Analysts point out that Wu's possible departure from her current position is due to the Internet depression. In 1999, TCL really needed Wu, because she represents the so-called new economy. But when Wu constructed a website, TCL encountered a depression. TCL is just a home appliance manufacturer, and it doesn't know how deep the water of IT is. Some analysts consider Wu over-estimated her capabilities.

Largest Merger in Beer Industry Launched

By Su Peng

China's beer industry changed forever on October 2001 after Blue Sword, China Resources (CR), and SAB International Brewery Group of South Africa (SAB) signed a merging agreement.

The three parties in the agreement plan to invest a total of 20 billion yuan in 12 joint ventures based on 10 former Blue Sword beer companies and 2 former CR and SAB companies. In the new joint venture Blue Sword holds 38% share holdings, with CR and SAB respectively having their own 31.62% and 30.38%. Many treat this merger as the biggest one in China's beer industry.

CR, the 3rd largest China beer manufacturer has been longing to enter the market of Sichuan province, while the local brand Blue Sword, which ranks 4th in China beer market, holds 70% of the Sichuan market share in its hand.

The battle for the market share between them was first launched in 1998. The negative results of the intensive competition, mainly low profit, finally drew the two sides to

the negotiation table, where they agreed that cooperation and utilization of their respective advantages was the only way out. As a Hong Kong registered company operating comprehensive business, CR has great capital advantages, while Blue Sword has market-holding advantages as a local enterprise.

The combination of these advantages means the two companies' increased production capacity will total more than 3.5 million tons, exceeding that of Yanjing Beer, and approaching that of Tsingtao Brewery, giant of the Chinese beer industry.

Violent competition in China's beer industry has brought a series of mergers. Chinese consumers' tradition of drinking local beer generates low brand assemblies and leads to local brands setting up separatist regimes. In this case, many beer manufacturers (such as Tsingtao Brewery) planning to expand into new territory have to merge with local enterprises, while continuing to use the original brands to accommodate local consumers.

Comparison of Beer Industry Magnates (2000)

	Tsingtao	Yanjing	CR	Blue Sword
Production Ability (mln tons /yr)	1.86	1.41	2	0.9
Sales Quantity (mln tons /yr)	1.86	1.41	1.2	0.5
Main Distributing Area	East China	North China	North-east China	Sichuan Province
Assets (Yuan)	7 bln	6 bln		2.1 bln
Year of Establishment	1903	1980	1993	1985

Chart by Su Peng

Moon Cake Morality

By Shan Jinliang

The moon cake scandal of Nanjing Guan Sheng Yuan has made it into the moral case studies of how not to do business in a Tsinghua University MBA class.

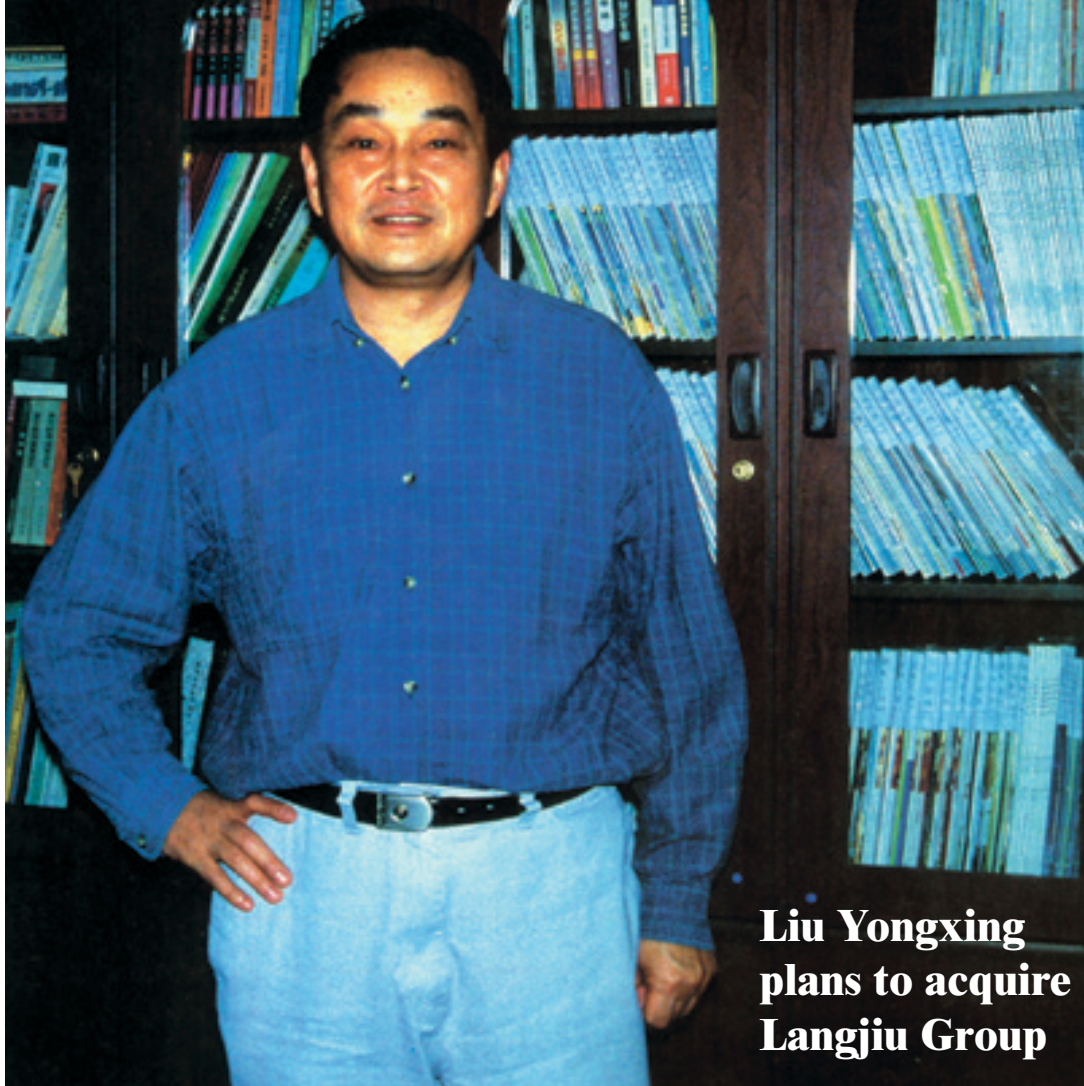
Nanjing Guan Sheng Yuan made moon cakes using filling from last year's unsold cakes, which was reported by Beijing Today and splashed across China's major newspapers last month. Consumers lost confidence in all Guan Sheng Yuan products, including the moon cakes, which destroyed the 80-year reputation of this traditionally famous brand. Moon cakes sales in Beijing over Mid-Autumn Festival witnessed a 40% decline compared with the same period last year, which proved a disaster for China's

moon cake industry, analysts say. China Business reported Nanjing Guan Sheng Yuan is having its accounts cleared.

The MBA moral of this story is to maintain integrity in business dealings. Dr. Yang Bin, in charge of the Tsinghua MBA courses, commented that purely through a lack of business moral fiber, numerous incidents have seriously damaged images and brands of Chinese companies. Yang sincerely hoped Tsinghua MBA graduates would strictly adhere to established moral codes in business dealings.

It is learned business morals have been repeatedly stressed in this MBA opening ceremony. People joked the ceremony should be called the ceremony for the study of business morals.

Billionaire's New Dreams



By Zhao Yijiang

Liu Yongxing, the food industry tycoon, announced on Oct. 28 at a press conference that his new ambition to enter the distilled spirit industry, just after he was rated by Forbes magazine as the richest man in China.

It was released that East Hope Group with Liu Yongxing as the biggest stockholder and Chairman intends to acquire Sichuan Langjiu group, a flagship of the distilled spirit industry in the province.

Langjiu is a state owned enterprise with total assets of 1.5 billion yuan, and sales of 0.6 billion yuan annually.

Reconstructing of Langjiu
Baoguang Medicine Company, privately owned and with assets of 0.12 billion yuan, is also contending for taking over Langjiu Group. Someone inside Langjiu pointed out however that Baoguang does not have enough capital or managerial experience to run the Langjiu business, "It is almost impossible for Baoguang to give us an advanced development platform," the insider said.

New Breakthrough

After hearing about

Langjiu's reconstruction, Liu contacted the related government agencies of Sichuan province with the intention of acquiring the group. East Hope has one billion yuan left to re-invest, and recently decided to target the distilled spirit industry for investment. "It is not simply an acquisition, we take it as our first step in shuffling the deck of the whole industry," said Mr. Zhang, from the investment department of the group. Some analysts agreed with him, "To combine the 100-year-old brand of Langjiu with the modern managerial model and capital advantage of East Hope would make it a "winner-winner" cooperation."

Diversification and Specialization

This is not Liu's first venture into a more diversified line of business.

He launched China's first non-state owned bank, Minsheng Bank, which provides loans to private companies. He also invested in Everbright Bank, Shanghai Bank, Chengdu Commercial Bank and Minsheng Insurance Company. It remains to be seen if Liu's de-

cision to take his eggs out of a single basket is a wise one, because attempts by private businesses to diversify always fail in China. But Liu is very confident, "The strategies of East Hope are diversified investments and specialized management. Our success was attributed to the successive creation of relative advantages in different phases, thus sustaining our developing speed and prospects."

Liu's Milestones

Born in Xinjing, Sichuan province in June 1948.

Sold his bicycle and wristwatch to raise funds to open a small business in 1982.

Founded the Hope Scientific Institute specializing in Feedstuff research in 1986.

Formed Chengdu Hope Group as the chairman with his brothers.

Split with his brothers and set up the East Hope Group in 1995, which owns all the Hope Group feedstuff producing mills in China's east, north and northeast areas.

Topped the list of the country's 100 wealthiest people with assets exceeding \$1 billion by Forbes magazine in 2001.

Foreign Funded Ventures To List on Domestic Stock Markets

By Zhao Hongyi

Foreign funded enterprises are eagerly waiting for the green light to be listed on China's stock markets. China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC), the watchdog of the country's stock market, gave its positive gesture on the issue this week in Beijing. But certain conditions will be

attached at the very beginning.

The spokesman for CSRC told the press this week, that the most possible candidates would be world famous companies from Hong Kong and Taiwan. The candidates will be those focused on the IT industry.

Listed preconditions are:

1. Candidates must be in the

form of foreign funded share holding companies with limited responsibilities.

2. Candidates must be registered in China.

3. Candidates must have profits for the consecutive three years prior to the issuing.

4. IPO issuing must be carried out strictly under the country's reg-

ulations concerning asset adjustment, which are in the process of drafting, to prevent candidates from listing ventures without their Chinese partners' shares, and from issuing stocks without real commercial activity in China. Beijing wants to have fair mergers between foreign investors and their Chinese counterparts, and thus ens-

sure clear and fair listings.

5. Candidates must take one year for structural and management adjustment, to meet the standard practices and requirements of the stock market before their issuing.

6. Candidates must be in line with all other policies and government requirements.

Land Use Control Handed to Developers

By Wang Dandan

Beijing's Xuanwu District is to transfer land use control to developers after a year's trial operation.

Transfer of land use control is an important step in the city's plan to intensify development of the southern city districts, according to Shen Yihong, secretary to Jin Yan, deputy director of the district. The allocated plots include: Yong'anmen Avenue, Caishikou Avenue, Liulichang Street, Dashilan area and Maliandao area. For these plots, Beijing Municipal Government will transfer land use control permanently to developers at certain price, and regulate the responsibilities of both sides in the contract.

99% of Offices Rented Out in Financial Street

By Li Dan

Beijing Financial Street in Xicheng District is finally set to become an 'Oriental Wall Street'. 99% of office buildings have been rented out for financial and insurance enterprises.

According to the government's Tax Department, until now 187 enterprises, domestic and overseas, have registered to run businesses in Beijing's Financial Street, with an increase of 24% on last year. This year's registered individual tax revenue in Financial Street has risen to more than 80 million RMB, with an increase of 164.9% on last year. Most tax revenue still comes from fields of finance and insurance, followed by real estate, e-information, lawyer and accountants' offices, and social services.

Up to ten large buildings will be erected over the next five years. Among them will be the international Financial Mansion, the International Financial Convention and Exhibition Center and the Securities Building.



Economic Tale of Two Cities: Seoul & Beijing

By Zhao Hongyi

The 12th China and South Korea Trade and Economic Fair, which is held twice every year, will open in Beijing on November 14 and 15.

30 small and medium sized enterprises from South Korea, most of which are from the Seoul Metropolitan, will present their products and technologies at the fair to potential Chinese buyers and partners, according to Mr. Chun Gwi Kweon, director of the representative office of the government of Seoul, also named Seoul Culture & Trade Center, in Beijing.

"The industries covered this time include IT, food processing, electronics, environmental protection, as well as transportation control and machineries," said Mr. Kim Jeong Seon, deputy director of the office in Beijing.

As far as Beijing Today has learnt, the fair will also be held in Changchun in northeast China, and Nanjing in the south.

"Established in 1995, the office facilitates the government of Seoul to have close contacts with the government of Beijing, supports to exchanges and communications of industrial and commercial entities of the two cities and countries, and promotes the images of Seoul and South Korea," introduced Mr. Chun Gwi Kweon.

Anyone interested in the fair can contact: Mr. Kim Jeong Seon
Tel: 010-6592 5722,
Fax: 010-6595 6883
Website: www.Seoul.org.cn

Pacific Department Store Enters Capital

By Zhao Hongyi

Pacific Department Store Group from Taiwan opened its first branch in Beijing on October 24 at the Pacific Century Place, the integrated multi-purpose complex of Pacific Century Cyber Works Limited (PCCW), one of Asia's leading communications companies based in Hong Kong.

The newly launched Pacific Department Store Beijing marks the first Beijing-Taiwan-Hong Kong joint venture officially awarded a retail license by China's Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation (MOFTEC).

Located in the central business district (CBD), Pacific Century Place Beijing is a premier complex with office, residential and retail areas totaling 220,000 square meters.

Consisting of PCCW, the Pacific Department Store Group, and Xidan Shopping Co. Ltd. of Beijing, the new department store aims at landing the luxury consumer market in the city's CBD. It is learnt by Beijing Today that the Pacific Department Store Group will



open its second branch at Xidan and the third at Zhongguancun, northwest of Beijing, by the end of this year.

So far, the Pacific Department Store Group operates six other mainland stores, with three in Shanghai, two in Chengdu and one in Chongqing.

It is believed by experts in the industry that Pacific Department Store's launch in Beijing will fundamentally change the retail industry structure and business concepts in the capital, which lack far behind those in southern cities like Shanghai and Guangzhou.

BMW Plans Local Car Production

By Zhao Hongyi

Auto manufacturer BMW AG declared the group will manufacture cars, most possibly the BMW 3er series, in China together with the Brilliance Automotive Holdings of Shanghai, its partner in China. BMW AG has submitted its application to the Chinese authority for final approval, according to Dr. Joachim Milberg, BMW Chairman of the Board in his statement released in Beijing last Friday.

"China's entry into the World Trade Organization means the country will be further involved in the world market and manufacturing assembly," said Mr. Milberg. "This offers a great chance for the development of the country's automobile manufacturing and also a

chance for BMW to allocate new plants in the country, if we want to capture this market."

According to Mr. Milberg, BMW is quite optimistic about the potential market of luxury cars in China and intends to play a leading role in this regard.

In the first nine months this year, BMW has already delivered 4663 cars to China, an increase of 72% over the same period of last year.

Brilliance Automotive Holdings of Shanghai is one of the arms of the newly emerging Huacheng Investment Group.

The Group, an active investor listed on the Shanghai Stock Market, has invested more than 5 billion yuan in the auto manufacturing including whole automobile assembly, auto engines, parts and components. It has gained great experience in its cooperation with Toyota, GM, Mitsubishi and Renault. Branded cars under the flagship of the Group and sold in China include Jinbei (golden cup) traveler's van and newly launched Zhonghua (great China) luxury sedans.

Other industries the Group is involved in include biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, banking and hospitals.

It is estimated that individual buyers account for roughly 40 percent of car purchases at present in China. The government hopes to increase the figure to 70 percent over the next ten years.

In addition, China's entry to the World Trade Organization, expected later this year, will force the country to reduce its import tariffs on foreign cars to 25 percent within five years, from the current 60-80 percent.

Photos by Zhuang Jian



Photo by Chen Shuyi

Overseas Professionals Can Qualify as Traditional Chinese Doctors

By Xiao Rong

Overseas professionals, including residents from Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan, can compete with mainland Chinese for the qualification of traditional Chinese doctor from 2002. According to the Ministry of Public Health, overseas practitioners who hold a Chinese undergraduate medical degree and have gone through a one-year internship in Chinese medical institutions will be permitted to participate in the qualifying examinations for doctors in China next year.

Of the four classifications of the examination, which are Clinic, Traditional Chinese Medicine, Stomatology and Public Health, they can apply for the first three, marking the first widening of access to the qualification of doctors in China.

With the diploma ratified by Chinese Educational Departments and a continuous one-year internship in Chinese Medical Institutions, as well as valid passport, visa, internship ratifi-

cation and health certificate, foreign applicants should go through residential formalities at local public security organs within 30 days of entry. Those who are qualified after the examination will acquire the qualification of Doctors uniformly authorized by the Ministry of Public Health, according to Zhu Xueshi of the Ministry of Health.

"To be allowed to participate in the examination is only the first step towards being a doctor in China," said Jing Luxian of the Medical Management Office of Beijing University of Chinese Medicine, which is an authoritative university for the education and examination of doctors of traditional Chinese medicine.

"After acquiring the qualification, registration at local health departments for the ratification of practice is needed. Moreover, practitioners must continue a follow-up education of 25 credits annually by means of lectures and symposiums organized by Beijing Traditional Chinese Medicine Association," Jing stressed.

By Wu Tao / Zhao Hongyi

Dialogues, state banquets, flowers and lectures are not all. More importantly, tens of big deals are waiting for final endorsement while Mr. Gerhard Schroeder, the German Chancellor, is visiting China for the third time as chancellor on October 31-November 2. Accompanying him is a large business delegation composed of presidents, CEOs and chairmen of boards of German multinationals.

According to sources from the Sino-German Hi-tech Forum held earlier this week in Beijing, over 20 big deals, including economic cooperation and trade, are waiting to be signed. The total amount reaches

German Firms to Expand Business in China

nearly US\$10 billion.

Contracts include 50 A320 aircrafts purchased by China worth 2.5 billion Deutschmarks, BASF's US\$2 billion investment for the construction of manufacturing mills in Shanghai, Bayer's US\$3.1 billion investment for a chemical production base and Siemens's package investment on the HVDC line (high voltage direct transmission line) construction from Guizhou to Guangdong provinces.

Other contracts extend to industries like IT, electronics, biotech, energy and environment protection.

A recent survey indicates that German businesses are optimistic about trade in China, according to Wednesday's China Daily.

The survey carried out by the German Chamber of Commerce in China investigated 600 German companies active in China. The results indicate that more than 60 percent of the companies believe that after 2006, German companies operating in China will enjoy the same business conditions that Chinese companies in Germany currently have. In addition, 70 per cent of the German businesses expect to

further expand business in China next year.

Dr. Heinrich von Pierer, President and Chief Executive Officer of Siemens told German reporters in an interview prior to visiting China that localization of production is critical to a multinational like Siemens, particularly after China's entry to the World Trade Organization (WTO).

"You cannot always put your expectation on market access. Instead, investment in the targeted market is much more useful and efficient," said Dr. Pierer.

So far, Germany is China's largest trading partner within the European Union (EU).

According to Chinese customs' statistics, bilateral trade in 2000 reached US\$19.69 billion and Germany's imports from China reached 17.8 billion Deutschmarks in the first half of this year, increased by 10.5%.

By the end of 2000, China approved a total of 2421 foreign direct investment projects from Germany, with a contracting volume of US\$12.24 billion and actual investment of US\$5.85 billion.

Rare Books Under Protection

By Chen Ying

In order to ensure the preservation of more than 50 thousand rare books, the Capital Library has spent 650 thousand yuan purchasing them from the Beijing Arts & Crafts Institute.

According to Zhou Xinhui, vice-president of the Capital Library, these rare books include not only precious Chinese and foreign publications and periodicals published since the founding of the PRC in 1949, but also a great number of art materials, including books of calligraphy and paintings, made from the end of the Qing Dynasty

to 1949. The variety and quantity of these books surpasses even the collection in the Capital Library.

According to staff at the institute, the expense and work involved in protecting these rare books is beyond the institute's resources. Although a number of private collectors have offered several million yuan to buy the books, they preferred that the books be collected by some national administration.

After carefully evaluating the collection, the Capital Library has agreed to purchase it in its entirety.

Quarantine Dogs to Debut at Capital Airport

By Sun Ming

The first group of quarantine dogs in China passed the initial check last Friday and will be put to work at Beijing's Capital Airport by the end of this year, according to the Beijing Entry-Exit Inspection and Quarantine Bureau.

Quarantine dogs are used widely in many developed countries, however this is the first time for them to be used here. The dogs were trained jointly by the Beijing Entry-Exit Inspection and Quarantine Bureau and the Beijing Breeding & Training Base for War Dogs.

After special training, these dogs can easily determine whether passengers are carrying foodstuffs that should receive further

check or are prohibited for entry and exit, without the need to open their baggage.

Dong Jingmin of the Beijing Entry-Exit Inspection and Quarantine Bureau said besides having a good nose, the dogs have an excellent temperament. When they detect a suspicious article, they simply crouch down and wait for the quarantine personnel to open the indicated baggage.

According to the bureau, it intercepted almost 8,000 prohibited items of foodstuff at Beijing's Capital Airport last year. The introduction of the dogs is expected to raise the work efficiency of quarantine personnel and improve the detection rate of such articles.

American Nurse Granted Chinese Professional Certificate

By Sun Ming

Mei Ka Chin (陆薇家), a 51 year-old Chinese American, became the first foreign nurse to receive a professional nursing certificate from the Chinese Ministry of Public Health last Friday.

Ms. Chin is a veteran midwife who has practiced midwifery for nearly 30 years (6 years in Britain and 26 years in America). Before she came to China in February 2000, she served as Associate Director of the Midwifery Services at North Central Bronx Hospital and Jacobi Medical Center in New York City.

According to Ms. Chin, she left China when she was only 8 years old. All these years, she has hoped for the opportunity to return to China to learn about women's health care and maternity services available in China. Professionally she has been in the forefront promoting Family Center Care in the USA for the last 26 years. She believes it is time for her to do something for the women in China by promoting this concept here.

The opportunity came when Beijing United Family Hospital and Clinics (the first joint venture foreign hospital in China) offered her a job as Consultant Midwife in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

When asked whether it was necessary for her to take an examination to obtain the Chinese nursing certificate, she said this is a must in order for



Photo by Sun Ming

her to practice in China. After initial certification in Britain, she had to take an examination in Canada and the United States before she could work there. China should make no exception. "It is for the safety of the patient," added she.

"I sincerely hope to apply the international mode of maternity care in Chinese hospitals," said Ms. Chin. According to her, pregnant women in many other countries are viewed as consumers by hospitals, and are usually empowered through education and informed consent to decide birth options for themselves. They can also ask family members to be present during labor and delivery.

According to Yang Meimei, the Marketing Assistant of the hospital, Ms. Chin is now a valuable part of the hospital's team, providing support to obstetricians and training to midwives and nurses.

Para Para a Big Hit with Young Beijingers

By Ivy Zhang

Last Sunday morning, Ms. Wang, a local computer company employee, came to a fitness center to sign up for the Para Para Dance Training Course. She says many of her colleagues developed a keen interest in Para Para after seeing the Hong Kong movie "Cherry Blossom Romance (浪漫樱花)". In the movie, the hero and heroine danced Para Para in a cherry orchard.

According to an instructor at Beijing Dancing Institute, Para

Para, which originated in Japan, reflects the movement of cherry blossom petals flying in the wind. Crowds of young people in colorful dress can be seen dancing Para Para in the streets in some western countries. The dance is fast-paced, brisk, fashionable and easy to learn.

"We all like dancing," says one of the Para Para dancers at the Beijing Youth Palace, "We saw that movie, and think that the dance looks brisk and care-free. So we come to learn it!"



Carin Harrington shows her designs for the future otter enclosure

Photo by Su Wei

"I want them to live happily!"

By Su Wei

"I think we need to post all the drawings for the otter enclosure improvement on the first board, besides the photos of the present enclosure and the future site for the enclosure." Carin Harrington, an emergency doctor of the International SOS, was discussing arrangements with Zheng Wangzhi, of the Animal Adoption Office at Beijing Zoo, for a visit by Jane Goodall, the internationally renowned expert on chimpanzees.

Zheng was surprised when Harrington arrived at 9 a.m. as scheduled, for they had heard she has been ill and was to leave the following morning. "Yes, I just had a cold and my ear had an infection," Carin said with a strong twang. "But today I am much better. And I think we must finalize the arrangement for Jane's visit."

"It is really hard for a pregnant woman to make the more than one hour drive here," Zheng said several days before Harrington had bought some plants and insisted on coming to the zoo herself to put them in the fox enclosures.

Although she is a doctor,

she has long been interested in zoology. Being aware of some extinct species in China, she came to Beijing Zoo in September last year to do research for her master's degree in animal behavior. During that time, she became concerned about the otters, foxes and monkeys in the zoo. "They were not happy. There were no plants or toys for them," she says.

The otter in particular, she found was very sad. "In Jersey Zoo, the otters are happy. There is a water slide and a fountain. They can play together and can make performances for the visitors in their enclosure. But here..." She sighed regretfully.

One day Zong Ying, Director of Beijing Zoo, asked Harrington what she thought of their Zoo. Carin said sincerely "We should provide them with a free and safe environment, as if they were in nature," and suggested she could do something to help the animals live happily.

Zong responded warmly and suggested that they could work out the projects together. Since then, Harrington has been busy finding photos of

the enclosures in Hong Kong Zoo, and Jersey Zoo, drawing designs for the improvements, and selecting a site for the future otter enclosure.

"Harrington is so warm-hearted. We really appreciated what she has done for Beijing Zoo Zheng said, "And we do not know how to show our gratitude". "I just draw some pictures, and all the work is done by Beijing Zoo," counters Harrington, adding that she is happy to happy to see the efforts made by Beijing Zoo.

With the funds donated by her and collected from other international organizations, the reconstruction project is to be carried out in February next year when Harrington returns from Britain.

Now she is considering improving the living conditions for the primates and fox. "I know they are much better than before. There are some plants, but they need more."

She says it is a pity that she could not meet Jane Goodall when she comes to Beijing, but she considered that "It is very important to let Jane know the efforts that Beijing Zoo has done. She must be happy to see it!"

Hospital Embezzler Sentenced to Death



Photo by Yang Yonghui

By Su Wei

The former director of the Admission Office of the Cancer Hospital of the Chinese Academy of Medical Science, Shi Qiaoling was sentenced to death Tuesday on charges of bribery and embezzlement. Her accessory Chen Yumei was sentenced to 10 years' in prison.

From January 1996 to December 1999, as the Director of Admission Office, Shi took advantage of her position to rewrite and fabricate refund notes for the admission medical deposits. She also asked Chen

and others to act as patients or patients' relatives, enabling her to illegally take more than 9.2 million yuan of the admission medical deposits.

From July to December in 1999, Shi deposited 3.77 million yuan admission medical out of the hospital's account without authorization. 2 million yuan was later recovered by the hospital.

Shi and Chen together embezzled a total of more than 10.98 million yuan. 10.65 million yuan of which went directly to Shi.



Photo by Wang Zheng

"Repeat after me..."

Believe what you see. It's not a movie scene but real life. Miss Diana, a Beijing University student from Kenya was teaching police from Xicheng District in the first Xicheng Police Bureau English Training Class on Monday.

"Please show me your ID card," and "Why were you fighting?" were among the sentences being taught.

When these police officers return to their stations, they will be responsible for passing on what they have learned to their colleagues. The goal of this action is to have more than 80 percent of police able to speak 200 sentences of English before the middle of the next year. (Chen Ying)



By Sun Ming

★ The construction of a railway linking Beijing's urban subway loop-line with the Capital International Airport, located northeast of the city proper, is expected to begin next year, according to the Beijing Morning Post.

★ Beijing is to exert tighter control over air quality from November 1, according to the Beijing Municipal Bureau of Environmental Protection. Measures include reducing the dust and sulfur content in coal used in local furnaces.

★ A gang of tomb robbers was arrested last week in Beijing, according to police sources. The gang confessed to having robbed at least nine ancient tombs in the suburbs of Beijing.

★ The Peking Man Site at Zhoukoudian, in the southwest of Beijing, reopens to visitors from this week, following the completion of a reconstruction project.

WWF Corporate Club Launched in China

By Xia Lei

World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), the global conservation organization, has launched a Corporate Club to invite businesses to contribute to nature conservation.

The WWF Corporate Club is an inexpensive corporate membership program specially developed to create a network of companies who wish to take action for the good of the environment.

The Corporate Club program will invite 20 companies to become founding members. Being a member means the company makes a small investment in WWF China's conservation programs and costs US\$6000 per year.

If you are interested in knowing more about the Corporate Club and want to work with WWF, contact Ms Ding Jing, Corporate Partnership Manager from WWF, on 65959891 ext 226, or visit their website: www.panda.org; www.wwfchina.org.



Christophe Peres at Tian'anmen; the end of his journey

Photo by Xiao Qing

12,000 km Bike Ride to Raise Funds for Kids with Heart Defects

By Ivy Zhang

Christophe Peres, the Yang-Qi project initiator, arrived in Beijing on October 29 after cycling 12,000 km across China with an aim to help children with life threatening disease, especially heart defects.

Starting from May 10, this Frenchman rode from Xinjiang to Tibet, Yunnan, Guangxi, Guangdong, Shanghai and finally Beijing. Up to now, 2 million RMB have been raised and 4 Chinese children benefited from pediatric cardiac surgery.

For donations, please visit www.yangqichina.com or www.chinapay.com.



Choosing a Halloween pumpkin at the supermarket

Photo by Qu Liyan

Pumpkins Hot at Halloween

By Ivy Zhang

In the lead-up to Halloween on October 31, many American expats living in Beijing purchased pumpkins in preparation for celebrating the traditional holiday.

Halloween is a popular holiday for American children, during which people place a big hollowed out pumpkin with a light inside in the doorway, and kids go to visit neighbors singing Trick or Treat, and ask for candies.

The day before Halloween, the person in charge of the vegetable department at Carefour told reporters that more than 1,000 kg of pumpkins had been delivered to the supermarket, and sold out within ten days.

According to a pumpkin supplier, the supermarket is extremely careful in its pumpkin selection, and demands that each one have a balanced shape with red, smooth and glowing peel and weigh between 2 and 2.5 kg.

"It's getting more convenient to celebrate traditional western holidays," a Canadian woman told Beijing Today while selecting her pumpkin, "Christmas trees, turkeys and pumpkins can all be easily purchased in Beijing."

Dead Men Only

Erecting statue to star stirs up storm



Gong Li Photo by Cui Jun

By Chen Ying

If he had foreseen the reaction, would the mild-mannered Shandong Normal University professor at the center of this peculiarly Chinese controversy still have suggested erecting a statue to the area's most famous movie actress?

To attract more customers and create a more modern image, statues for the city's refurbished business street should include not just ancient sages, but also contemporary role models, said Professor Song Suiliang, Jinan Construction Committee had wanted statues to promote business and human touch, history and local culture. Who better, said Song, than their own local-girl-come-good Gong Li?

Well, it probably seemed like a good idea at the time. Since that time, Quancheng Business Street in the center of Jinan, Shandong province has certainly garnered immense publicity. Gong Li, no stranger to sudden storms that blow in her direction from her beloved motherland, quickly said she was un-

worthy of the great honor.

But debates published in the Qilu Evening News since the end of September have reached the capital and reveal much about changing values in a modernizing society.

Opinions from the professor and also Beijingers follow:

Song Suiliang, professor Shandong Normal University

I proposed the idea in a seminar to discuss statue design for projects to widen the Quancheng Business Street. Gong Li is a genuine Jinan person.

She is a well-known movie star throughout the world. She has been awarded many honors for her acting. She is also an ambassador to the food and agriculture organization of the United Nations. She comforted transport police in the snow recently when she returned to Jinan at spring festival. For what she has achieved and done, Jinan should be proud of her.

There may be three main reasons to object to the suggestion. First, Chinese always evaluate some person after his or her death, and aren't accustomed to making someone's statue when that person is alive. Gong Li is so young that nobody can anticipate her future fate.

Moreover, although Gong Li is wealthy, she is an actress. In traditional opinion, performer, as an occupation, is inferior to any other. This view is so elemental that it is difficult to shake.

Third, she is married to a Hong Kong merchant. Although Hong Kong has returned to China, many people still retain the prejudice that Hong Kong people are rather different to others. It's a pity to abandon an opportunity for promoting Jinan to the world for those so-called reasons.

Luan Taiqin, a reader of Qilu Evening News

The aim and meaning of statues are different according to statues' location and position. People should make clear where Gong Li's statue will be put? If her statue is put

on the front of some shopping mall or department store, it should be considered as advertising. The managers should think more whether the statue would be useful for sales.

If her statue would be put in the film institute or studio, it should be considered as an honor in praise of her performance. The administrators should compare her with other excellent performers.

The original idea of Song Suiliang was to develop Jinan tourism. There are two kinds of statues in tourist attractions: one for adornment and the other as a monument. The former is similar to advertising. It may sometimes require fees. For the latter, it is very strict about the choice of role model. As to the Gong Li issue, Song Suiliang leans toward the latter. It is worth asking seriously whether Gong Li can be thought of as a contemporary role models for others today.

I disagree with erecting a statue for Gong Li. That doesn't mean I am a chauvinist. There must be the same standard for both men and women when erecting a statue. Nor do I look down upon performers. I respect artists. I also don't mean to stress the past over the present. Of course there are more statues of ancients rather than contemporaries. This comes through elimination over time. Only the outstanding human beings will be remembered by history.

Liu Li, clerk, Beijing Capital Airport

I think the media shouldn't make such a fuss about this issue. It's just a kind of business promotion. Everything connected to business has some kind of ambassador these days. Why not Quancheng Business Street?

I think Gong Li meets the business street's requirements. Gong Li owns an international reputation because of her terrific performance in movies. Her fame is very useful to business. It will bring success to the business street if people come to shop here because of

Gong Li's statue.

Many people say Gong Li can't be compared with Confucius and Mencius and her influence won't last longer than 50 years. But she really represents a certain period of history. She is fashionable and beautiful. Her statue is more suitable for a business street than Confucius and Mencius in that sense.

Frankly, I think there might be many arguments no matter whose statue went up in the street. There are so many differences in popular opinion. The media should broadcast the news more positively. The manager can change the statue if it fails to attract people in 50 years' time. Everything changes in our era after all.

Xia Xueluan, professor, Beijing University

I just want to know what Gong Li thinks about this. It's purely business no matter whose statue is erected. But it can hurt the individual involved. Gong Li is the victim of this issue. Nobody is perfect.

As a celebrity, Gong Li must face both honor and rumors. It's better not to make a statue to a living person. Better to let people pronounce the final verdict on a person after his or her death.

Personally, I think Gong Li is a very fine actress. She has borne great pressure for her gift. For instance, she wanted to continue her studies at Beijing University. But there were many who censured her for her actions. Finally she had to abandon this plan.

Incidentally, the sponsors should more cautiously consider their advertising theme. Otherwise they just get half the result for twice the effort.

William P Goldstein, lawyer, USA

Generally it is unusual to erect a statue to a living person in the USA. It's traditional to build statues honoring people who are dead. Maybe there are some exceptions. It doesn't matter if movie stars erect statues in Hollywood. But I disagree with erecting them outside of Hollywood.

SOUND BITES

"Most of the damage stemming from the World Trade Center and Pentagon attacks will probably show up in the fourth quarter in terms of a reduction in spending. But there is some uncertainty in how it will hit corporate profits in the third quarter."

— Joseph Abate, senior economist at Lehman Brothers

"I only hope that this [military objective] is achieved before Ramadan. There is a possibility. But if that does not happen, I would discuss the matter with [President Bush] but I wouldn't be pressing him as such."

— General Pervez Musharraf, Pakistan's President, talking to Reuters

"The world needs China and China needs the world even more. The long-term advantages of a liberal trade system and more transparent market competition to China's economy will far surpass the short-term cost adjustments of open trade."

— Chinese economist Hu Angang

"There will be less political volatility [in the coming months], because those who disagree with this government are less enthusiastic about overthrowing it, compared to the last government."

— Wimar Witoelar, analyst, Indonesia

By Chen Ying

北京青年报
BEIJING TODAY
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《北京青年报.房地产版(英文版)》是《北京青年报》每周五推出的房地产及相关的广告专版,其英文版随报发行媒体优势不言而喻。根据房产客户的需求,让公司决策层直接阅读到相关内容,更具针对性,力争使客户的广告效力发挥至最大!

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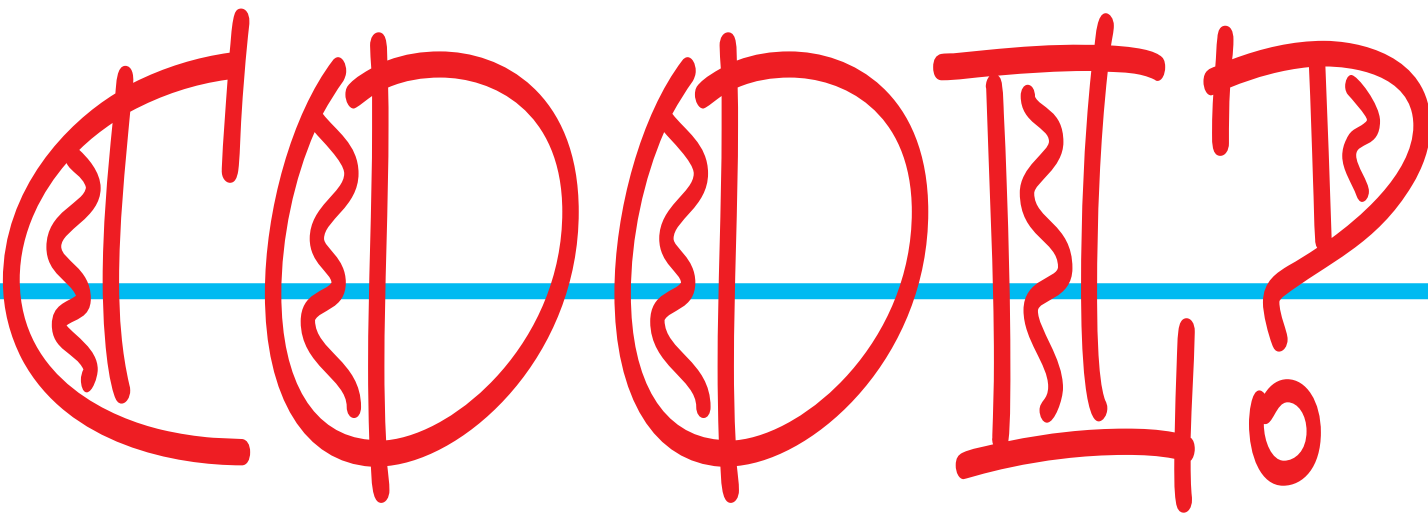
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Who's What's



By Su Wei

What does cool mean to you? What constitutes cool clothing? cool love? cool lifestyle? Recently Yahoo China and Halls conducted a Cool Survey and threw a Cool Party, in order to give young people a chance to make their own life announcement.

Among 3,400 young people surveyed, 42% are middle school students; 47% are university students and 12% are young white-collars in foreign companies.

Men and Women's cool: high status vs romance

According to the survey, men and women have different understandings of the meaning of cool.

Men generally consider higher salary, higher social status and career success to be symbols of a cool way of life. CEO is seen as the epitome of cool in terms of occupation for men.

In contrast, women defined living in a log cabin near the sea, shopping or doing whatever they happen to feel like doing, and virtually anything related to romance, as cool.

Cool way of life: material and carefree

76% of the surveyed consider leading a 'materialistic and carefree' life as cool, while 10% see a 'practical' life as cool.

Practical as cool may mark a new trend in a competitive world, where people are eager to seek any spiritual relaxation and freedom, however hard it is to get in reality.

Materialistic and carefree life is described in terms of any career that offers (or is perceived to offer) independence, financially and otherwise, such as GM, CEO and professional managers. High income, high social status and living in an expensive villa are all considered very cool.

Making one's home wherever one happens to be, doing whatever one feels like doing and traveling and making friends all over the world during are also deemed pretty cool.

A practical way of life is seen as working regularly from 9 to 5 with an ordinary income, not worrying about pressure, and living happily with one's sweetheart.

Cool way of life for university students: material and carefree

University students, living a comparatively free and open life on campus, must sooner or later enter the "real world" and face social challenges independently.

Due to a sense of being favored by the society and pride in their achievements, their concept of a cool lifestyle emphasizes seeking spiritual relaxation, living in harmony with nature.

However, it may also suggest that university students are uncertain about their future and seeking to escape cruel reality. Their descriptions of their future may well be difficult to realize.

Cool way of life for middle school students and white-collar workers: practical life

Middle school students face

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pressures from their school, parents and study. Therefore, the coolest thing for them is an independent life, that is, earning sufficient income to support themselves. However, they tend not to have a clear idea of their specific goal in their future and are limited in their income expectation.

The white-collar workers have already demonstrated their ability to support themselves, rather than depending on their parents. So their expectations are more concrete. Furthermore, economic and working pressures have made them to set more realistic goals.

Cool clothing for middle school students: popular and attractive

The younger the respondent, the more eager they are to be approved by others, particularly by way of dress, and the more inclined they were to express themselves by way of imitation. In terms of cool dress, Japanese and South Korean pop singers are major role models.

Cool clothing for university students and white-collars: Smart office style

Facing more social pressure, university students and white-collar workers consider their style of dress must be tolerated or accepted by the society. Smart office gear, cool to wear and comfortable is a popular choice.

Cool accessories: high-tech products vs bright color

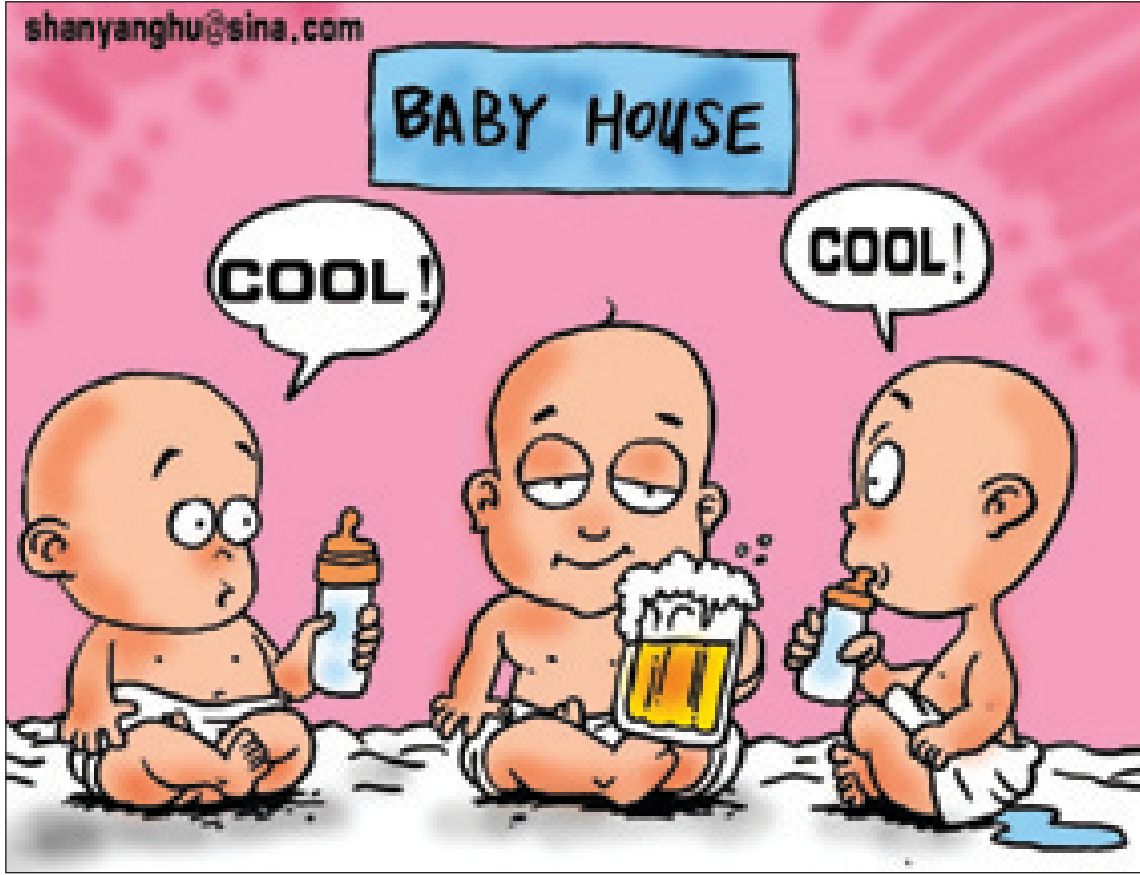
For accessories, men equate cool with high-tech products that are stylish and boast advanced components. Portable computers, mobile phones and PDA's are all considered cool accessories.

Women, on the other hand see small, smart and colorful accessories as cool. They also like the idea of high-tech products, such as portable computers, having a bright, colorful exterior.

Cool places in the world: innermost being

Mysterious and less traveled

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places such as Tibet, deserts and Mount Everest are considered as cool places to visit by most of the surveyed. However the inner world, such as understanding others feelings or emotions through their eyes or voices are regarded as the best places to experience cool.

University students in particular consider exploring natural scenery and exotic customs to be less cool than visiting 'the innermost being'.

Cool music: pop music and love songs

In talking about the varieties of music, popular music and rock & rolls are regarded as the coolest, followed by classical, new age and country music.

This might reflect the typical energy and passion of young people, though sad songs also rated a mention.

Songs talking about love and growing up are cool, for such subjects are easily to be relate to and young people are easily to be impressed by expressions of emotion.

Cool performance: men's world

According to the surveyed, male entertainers dominate in the area of cool performance. Only a few believe that under certain conditions, women can compete in this area.

Cool Expressions

The surveyed consider the coolest expressions to be those that can never be found in a dictionary. Such expressions are used and understood by others in their social circles, but not by 'outsiders', such as teachers, parents etc.

Dating places: a two-person world

For the coolest places to date, any place belonging only to the two lovers topped the list, followed by Internet Cafes, noisy public places and familiar places.

The two-person world may be at the seaside, in a remote mountain valley, in a park, a garden with roses in bloom or on top of a high building.

Such places are considered conducive to boldly declaring one's love, or passionately calling out his or her sweetheart's name.

In an Internet café, lovers can express their passion without talking to their lover face to face.

Familiar places such as snack bars, libraries or self-study rooms reflect the lovers seeking a more natural and common occasion to express their affection.

But in noisy public places such as bars, cafes, or disco, lovers can demonstrate their passion, perhaps without attracting too much attention. Wearing one's most fashionable clothes is considered a must in such popular places.

Cool lovers: showing personalities

Middle school students consider having their hair dyed bright yellow, green or blue, wearing dark glasses, keeping silent and never smiling, or intentionally making their lover

actually saying anything, or hugging tightly and asking "Do you love me?" are also considered cool ways of expressing love, especially by university students and young white-collar workers.

Cool place for first kiss: in a quiet and secluded environment

A wharf on a rainy night, a meadow at the foot of a hill in the moonlight and the seaside in the setting sun are all considered very cool places for the first kiss.

Perhaps the first kiss is something full of mystery and passion, and such a romantic setting will enhance that happiest memory.

However, middle school students think it is also cool if the first kiss takes place in very public place, for all the world to see.

Cool love token: expensive gifts vs DIY gifts

Men consider the more costly the gift, the deeper the love. Portable computers, mobile phones, sports cars and diamonds are therefore considered as the coolest love token by most of the surveyed men.

Some extreme measures such as giving her a handicraft with the sentence "I Love You" written in blood, or getting a tattoo of her figure or the phrase "I Love You" were also regarded as being pretty cool by a few respondents.

Women generally want to receive, and also are willing to give something with special meaning, especially some small gifts made by themselves, such as a scarf, a sweater, a pair of gloves, 10,000 paper cranes or buttons made of her hair.

Cool apology: "I am sorry."

Most surveyed consider directly saying, "I'm sorry," is the cool apology. This phrase is regarded as being as valuable as "I love you!" Since "I love you" can make them come together, "I am sorry" is also able to clear up any misunderstanding.

Men consider a cool way of offering an apology would be singing love songs under the window, standing in the rain in the street or jumping into a river in front of their lover.

Women would make an apology by sobbing, acting as a spoiled child, or dressing up in the clothes her lover likes the most directly in front of him.

Cool place for Valentine's Day: a sweet two persons' world

Most of the surveyed consider it will be cool if they can spend Valentine's Day with their lover without any disturbance from the outside world. They may desire to spend it at home, in a bar, in a garden full of roses, at the seaside, or even in an Internet Cafe.

They may appreciate light music and dinner together in a western restaurant, snuggling up to each other on a quiet mountain to watch the sunrise, or revisiting the scene of their first dating.

The important thing is that wherever they spend it, that place should be as cool as their own inner world.

Burning Issues

A company in northeast China is selling gas diluted with air; is it a safety measure, or a scam?

By Xiao Rong

Following accusations by local citizens that it was diluting domestic use gas with air to boost profits and a subsequent investigation, Fushun Gas Company in northeast China's Liaoning province was fined 5,335,000 yuan by Fushun Administration for Industry and Commerce (FAIC). FAIC said in its report that by diluting the gas with air, Fushun Gas had made 1,460,000 yuan in illegal earnings in the first quarter of this year.

While not denying that air had been mixed into the gas, Fushun Gas responded to the fine by filing a counter-action against FAIC, a move that has aroused nationwide attention. China Central Television (CCTV) and Xinhua News Agency both ran detailed coverage of the story following the acceptance of the case by Fushun Intermediate People's Court on August 28.

The media attention raised the concern of the Liaoning provincial government as well as the State Administration for Industry and Commerce of the P.R.C. and the China Consumer Association. At the instruction of Liaoning provincial leaders, a special investigation group was set up by Fushun municipal government in August to make a further survey.

However at the same time, the municipal government also ordered a suspension of media coverage on the issue, and suspended both the fine against the gas company and the lawsuit proceedings.

Two months after this occurred, there has been no further explanation. The Ministry of Construction required China City Gas Association to prepare a new report on the issue, which was delivered on October 23 to relevant departments. However this latest report has sparked a new round of debates.

"We add air to stabilize methane content"

In an interview with Beijing Today, manager of Fushun Gas, Zhang Zuoming attributed the mixing of air with coal gas to the unstable methane content of the gas from the Laohutai mine, the only coal mine at Fushun city.

"It's simply because the methane content of the coal gas from Laohutai mine is always over 41%, which is the national quality standard for coal gas. We have to add air to lower the methane content to make it safely combustible. If the methane content is too high, dangerous gases will be produced when it is burned."

However according to the latest report, "the methane content of the coal gas which Laohutai mine provides to Fushun Gas Company is below 41%."

According to the company's records for the first quarter of this year, which were inspected by FAIC, the methane content of the gas from Laohutai mine is generally over 40% or 50%, and decreased to below 38% after being mixed with air. Fushun Gas buys the coal gas from Laohutai mine at the rate of 0.28 yuan per cubic meter, and after mixing it with air, sells it at 0.65 yuan per cubic meter. The report by FAIC said that within the first quarter of this year, the total amount of air mixed into the coal gas by Fushun Gas was almost 250,000 cubic meters, decreasing the average methane content to 32.5%, resulting in an extra profit of 1,460,000 yuan.

"The claim that the methane content of the coal gas from Laohutai mine is too high for effective combustion is unbelievable. Laohutai mine sells coal gas to three places including Shenyang Gas Company and Fushun Yihe Industrial and Trade Company, as well as Fushun Gas. According to the Liaoning Daily, Shenyang Gas never dilutes the gas with air, and even demands that the methane content be over 60%," said Xiao Guang, one of the main FAIC figures in charge of the case.

"Moreover, Yihe Industrial and Trade uses the coal gas provided by Laohutai mine to residents of the mining area without adding any air or liquefied gas. During our investigation, none of the residents complained about the high methane content of the

coal gas. Even if the flame is too big, it's common sense that by adjusting the gas range, it can be controlled."

Wang Yun, former chief of the Coal Gas Precaution Research Group of the former Ministry of Coal Industry, accuses Fushun Gas of violating the compulsory standard of gas quality. "As the coal gas is for civil use, it must conform with the state compulsory standard, which is 41% for methane content, with a permitted fluctuation of 38% - 44%. Only when within the limits, can the gas produce the maximum calorific value. Although the gas diluted with air can still be used, it's not within the optimum combustion limit. This is why the citizens of Fushun have been complaining about the low heat of the gas, which leads to long cooking times and higher gas bills."

Enterprise Standard & State Standard

One of the key justifications used by Fushun Gas for mixing air into the gas is that the company has formulated its own standard of no less than 28.5% of methane content, which was put on file by local technical supervision department in 1997.

"The standard methane content of 41%, which the FAIC refers to, is only a recommended standard stipulated by "City Gas Classification" (GB/T13611), not a compulsory one. In addition, coal gas cannot be classified as natural gas, for Fushun is virtually the only place in China to utilize coal gas. There is no single state quality standard for coal gas. So the current state standard for natural gas cannot be applied to the coal gas used in Fushun. It was under such circumstances that we established our own enterprise standard," said Zhang Zuoming.

Liu Chang, director of the branch of the FAIC, cited the "Security Regulations of Mines" made by the Ministry of Energy Resources in 1992, which said that the methane content of coal gas must be no less than 30%.

"It's the basic security standard which everyone should follow, to minimize the danger of explosion. However, the gas company claimed to be unaware of the state standard and formulated its own, lower standard. According to the stipulations of China's "Standardization Law", any enterprise must abide by compulsory state or professional standards and also formulate a much stricter enterprise standard. Thus it's evident that the gas company has violated relevant state regulations to increase profits."

At the request of the State Administration for Industry and Commerce for clarification, the State Standard Management Group of the Code for Design of City Gas Engineering (GB 50028-93) responded that although there is no single product standard for coal gas at present, there are specific demands on coal gas used as city gas according to "City Gas Classification".

"The City Gas Classification defines coal gas as 4T natural gas, with a basic methane content of 41% and permitted fluctuation of 38% - 44%. Even though this is a recommended standard, it is cited in the state compulsory standard of the Code for Design of City Gas Engineering (GB50028-93)," Xiao Guang added.

Gao Yong and Chen Yunyu, experts at the State Standard Management Group of the Code for Design of City Gas Engineering, said that Fushun was one of the first cities in China to utilize coal gas, and has abundant coal resources. "The quality standard of coal gas is based on the condition of the coal gas of Fushun. So it is impossible for the Gas Company to be unaware of the state standard."

Ma Huaide, a professor at China University of Political Science&Law states that those enterprise standards put on file by technical supervision departments are not necessarily legally binding standards. "The key

point is whether the enterprise standard conforms to the state standard. In addition, as a providing enterprise as opposed to a producing one, the company has no qualification to formulate an enterprise standard. And there are no such items as 'producing and processing' in its field of business authorized by FAIC, so even with no intention of increasing profits, mixing air into the gas is an illegal operation."

A Recurring Problem

Wang Yun, also a former engineer of Fushun Mining Bureau disclosed to Beijing Today that as early as 1989, under the authority of the Standing Committee of the Fushun People's Congress, an investigation was carried out on the effects of mixing air into coal gas by the Gas Company.

"When I was the representative of the local People's Congress, some residents had raised the problem of gas quality. It usually took more than 20 minutes to boil a pot of water and the fire was always weak. I organized a special investigation group, and the result confirmed our suspicions. The municipal leader in charge of the Fushun Gas then admitted the mistake and made an apology to the People's Congress Conference."

Ji Shanli, doctor of the Fushun Mining Bureau Hospital, and Xu Longyuan, professor of the Industrial Institute of the Fushun Mining Bureau both confirmed the results of the investigation. "We chose seven different locations in Fushun city, and the methane content of each one proved to be significantly less than that of gas taken directly from the mine. So it was certain the company had been mixing air into the gas."

Professor Xu Longyuan even took out the annals of the People's Congress of Liaoning Province, published by Liaoning People's Publishing House in 1993. On page 167, the record of the 2nd Conference of the 10th Fushun People's Congress, it read: "Some representatives talked to relevant municipal government leaders about the gas quality and social security problems."

When asked to comment, Fushun Gas manager Zhang Zuoming said he was unaware of this investigation.

"I'm just wondering why at that time, some of those who headed the company admitted that mixing air into the gas was improper, while now it has become a safety measure for the sake of thousands of consumers," said Liu Chang of FAIC.

After receiving the latest written report with the seal of the Ministry of Construction, Zhang Zuoming said Fushun Gas would have no problem winning the lawsuit. "This should be the most authoritative opinion. Those experts invited by FAIC were all retired professionals from the coal gas industry, rather than experts on city gas engineering. There should be certain authoritative organizations that can act as impartial arbitrators."

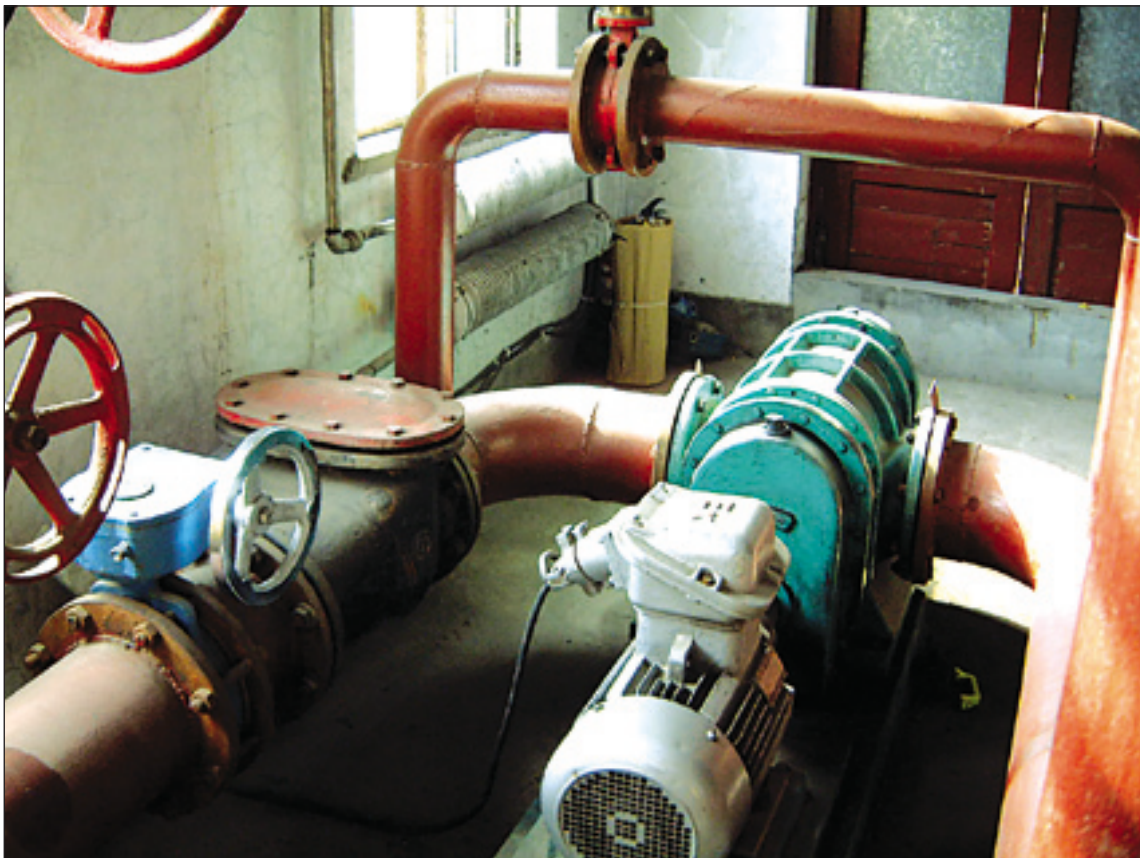
FAIC, however, was also confident. "As long as there is an open trial, we are well prepared for the hearing. Local residents are also on our side, for we represent the interests of thousands of consumers in this case."

"This is a typical case of a public utility enterprise attempting to swindle consumers by monopolizing the market and infringing upon consumer's security rights, information rights and fair-deal rights, which has disrupted the order of the market economy. The China Consumer Association will firmly support FAIC in its action against Fushun Gas to protect the rights of consumers," said Yang Shukun, secretary general of the China Consumer Association.

It has been over two months since the Fushun municipal government ordered the suspension of the trial, and as yet, there has still been no announcement by the Fushun Intermediate People's Court regarding a date for the hearing.



The huge gas tank of Fushun Gas



One of the two pumps used by Fushun Gas to add air to the gas

Photos by Xiao Rong

Dancing with SHARKS

By Hu Xiaoli

Most of us have to summon up all our courage to face Monday mornings, but for Guo Ping, Monday afternoon is the biggest challenge of the week. This is when she banishes all fear, changes into a wet suit, and plunges into a huge glass tank at the Aquarium in Beijing Zoo. 30 sharks leisurely cruise around her as she gives their watery home a good scrub.

The routine cleanup usually turns into a spectacle for visitors who crowd around the thick glass walls of the tank, which stretches 30 meters in length, and 4 meters in depth. They gaze in astonishment at the 'object' swimming with sharks. "Many visitors think we are robots, or at least not real," chuckles 25-year-old Guo, "for they don't believe people would swim with sharks, the most fierce and dangerous fish in the world."

Meeting a Shark Face to Face

"Actually, sharks are not as dangerous as people think," says Guo, "there are hundreds of species of sharks in the world, whereas only a dozen or so will attack humans, which mostly happens when they are extremely hungry." Guo smiles as if she is not afraid of those sharks at all.

"But, to be frank, I was scared when I first took on this task," Guo admits. That was not long after she started work in Beijing Aquarium. After the strict diving training, Guo was assigned the job of cleaning the shark tank. "Spending two hours with the sharks seemed like a whole day," recalls Guo. As she was cleaning, she couldn't help keeping a close eye on the sharks swimming around her. "I was most scared of the sand tiger shark, because it looks the most terrifying," says Guo. She reveals that actually the most fierce and dangerous one is not the sand tiger, but the lemon shark, which looks gentle. Fortunately, no shark approached her the first time, and as a result her confidence gradually grew.

Although Guo is no longer afraid of sharks after 3 years on the job, she recognizes that her job is highly demanding. "Yeah, you need to be very careful," stresses Guo, "once you are at the bottom of the tank, you must observe certain rules around the sharks, although the sharks raised in the aquarium are relatively tame." Guo and her colleagues must feed the sharks before they work in the tank. "Besides, it's important for the divers never to touch or follow sharks. When a shark swims your way, you must stay calm and get out of its way. Swimmers on the surface are at risk from attack. To the shark, the swimmer looks just like a seal, its common prey," she explains like a shark expert.

Face Sharks, Face Danger

Guo calmly says that once you put yourself into the sharks' world,

you must play by their rules, which means facing real dangers. Although the staff at the aquarium go through rigorous training for dealing with sharks, accidents are always possible. One small mistake or lack of experience could lead to a serious incident. Three members of staff are essential whenever anyone ventures into the shark tank. Two are responsible for the cleaning itself, while the third person takes charge of safety wielding a stick for warding off sharks.

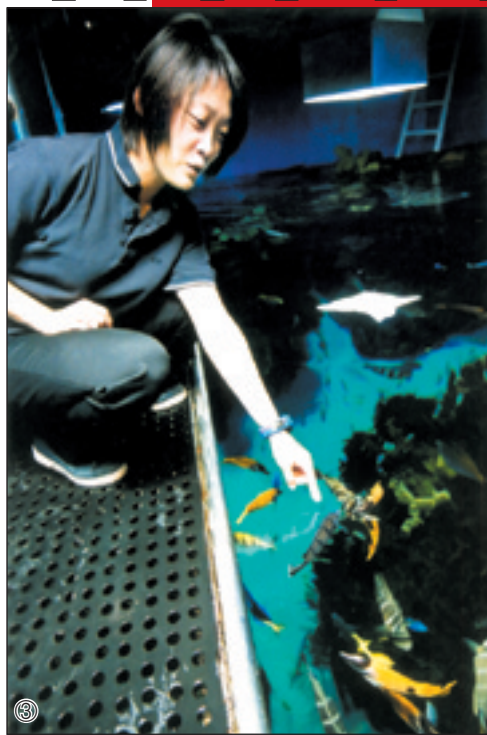
One day, Guo dived into the shark tank as usual with two other colleagues. The sharks seemed a little abnormal, and tried to get closer to them. The divers in the tank were immediately called out of the water by their supervisor. Guo told herself to be calm, and not to move too quickly, which is forbidden in the tank. The cause of the shark's behavior turned out to be that Guo had a tiny cut on her skin, which she didn't even know about. A shark's sense of smell is extremely sensitive, and even the hint of a scent of blood could provoke a dangerous reaction.

Without the guts to confront panic and danger, Guo would have had no chance to get this job. Three years ago, when she first walked into the aquarium for a chance interview, she didn't expect to become cleaning lady to a tank of sharks. She had hoped to work underwater in the mysterious, fairytale world of tropical fish and corals.

Six people attended the interview.

They were asked to dive into a tank about 4 meters deep, touching the corals at the bottom and staying there for about 30 seconds, and all of this with no diving equipment. "I could swim, but had never dived in such a challenging situation...deep, dark, and cold." Guo dived into the tank, but bobbed up to the surface immediately. "I felt cold and suffocated."

The manager announced that only individuals reaching the requirements had a chance to stay. Four people quitted, including three boys, but Guo didn't want to give up so easily. She dived into the tank again, try-



ing her best to cling onto the bottom for 30 seconds. "You're hired!" were the words from the manager when she got out of the water.

According to Paul Yang, manager of the aquarium, someone who dives into water 4 meters' deep is not scared of water. Staying down there for 30 seconds the first time, however, needs strength and persistence.

"Now, I can stay underwater for about 1 minute 20 seconds without a diving mask," she says proudly.

A Mermaid In the Aquarium

Apart from working in the Shark Aquarium, Guo is also one of the three girls who perform at the Marine Life Pavilion, which houses more than 70 kinds of fish.

"Swimming here is like wandering through a fairytale land." Hundreds of colorful tropical fish encircle her in a feeding frenzy as she carries their delectable meal of leafy greens, clams and small shrimps. "Although I know they are interested in the food, not me, I still assume the fish want to talk and play with me," she laughs. The gigantic sea turtles are her biggest fans. As soon as Guo enters the water, they approach and follow her loyally until she gets out.

"I know every fish in the tank, sometimes when you look at them, they stare you right in the face like a naughty child," says Guo happily. Among them, the eagle ray, jewfish, black-spotted ray, and humphead are her favorite fish.

The visitors, especially children, like to call her 'Mermaid', although it's a tough role to live up to. Guo says the ten-minute shows are pretty hard because she has to swim with grace and elegance while keeping an eye out for the corals at the same time. "During my first performance, I couldn't swim freely because I often hit the corals," she giggles. Now, Guo can swim like a real

mermaid, saying she feels fulfilled to see so many visitors enjoy her performance.

Work is Work

Most of Guo's friends admire her exciting work at the aquarium. Yet, Guo says the job is not as romantic as they think. The odd jobs like preparing the food, feeding the fish, and cleaning, are the tasks which take up most of her time in a day.

Preparing the sharks' food is always demanding. The only possible diet for aquarium sharks consists of sleeve fish, so in order to keep balanced nutrition, every sleeve fish is cleaned and made up into different kinds of feed.

At feeding time, Guo and her colleagues stand at the edge of the tank, and use a long metal clip to lower the sleeve-fish into the tank one by one. A steady hand is required as the sharks are fierce when grabbing food: they bolt up to the surface and wolf the fish down with a loud snap. "The noise scares us sometimes, but fortunately no one has fallen in so far, although the clips have several times," laughs Guo.

Feeding time, as well as cleaning, is the best opportunity for the aquarium team to observe the condition of the sharks. If they eat vigorously, that means they are healthy. If they refuse to eat and show fatigue, there are must be a problem. Speaking of sharks, Guo's interest in marine life bursts out.

After the mundane tasks are finished, Guo stands outside the glass tank, quietly watching the sharks. Their swiftness, strength, and power deeply captivate her.

Last year, Guo and her colleagues went diving in the sea. She wondered if she would encounter a wild shark. "That was when I realized the sharks' real home is not in the aquarium, but in the beautiful and mysterious sea," the girl says, waving to the sharks outside the tank.

We are interested in reporting common people, their stories, their feelings. If you have any personal experiences or you know someone who has such experiences, please contact us.

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- ① Intimate encounters with marine life
- ② Relaxing by the aquarium
- ③ Observing marine life
- ④ Preparing the sharks' food
- ⑤ Feeding sharks is a demanding job
- ⑥ About to enter the sharks' world
- ⑦ Meeting sharks face to face

Photos by Zhuang Jian, Yan Qi and Du Bin



Golden lotus



Detail of Panorama of Mount Lu
Collected by the Palace Museum, Taipei

Gliding Between Tradition and Modernity

—One Daqian in five hundred years

By Miao Yajie

All art professionals and lovers, collectors and connoisseurs agree the on-going "Retrospective Exhibition for the Art of Zhang Daqian's Paintings" is the exhibition of the season, if not the year. Besides the legendary painter Zhang Daqian (1899-1983), the exhibition can boast at least two firsts. This is the first time, through the persistent efforts of the two history museums across the Straits, that official collections of Taiwan have been exhibited in the Chinese mainland. It's also the first time that, with the sole sponsorship of a Chinese enterprise, the China Success Group Corporation, the later works of this world-class painter have been brought back to where he lived and won great acclaim in his early days.

There are 79 paintings in the exhibition at the Historical Museum of China: 60 provided by the History Museum of Taipei, which have never been exhibited in the Chinese mainland before; 15 from Sichuan Provincial Museum, and 4 collected by the Historical Museum of China. Covering the early, middle and late stages of his creation, along with tens of photos and video materials, the two-month exhibition offers a relatively comprehensive review of Daqian's artistic exploration.

It is by no means an overstatement to say that 'Zhang Daqian' is a household name. Those who understand little about his art would nonetheless be able to dwell with great relish upon his capacity to make forgeries, his Dunhuang trip, his bold and unrestrained personality, his generosity, his spending money like water, his gardens in Suzhou, Beijing, and later in Brazil, in the U.S. and in Taipei...

From Child Prodigy to Master

Always garbed in traditional Chinese costume, wearing a long, flowing beard, and carrying a walking stick wherever he went, Zhang Daqian looked like one of the ancient scholars in his own paintings. This artistic genius, appraised by Xu Beihong (1895-1953), one of the greatest modern painters, as "the best painter of the last five hundred years", started his professional career at the age of 9 under the guidance of his family at Neijiang, Sichuan province. His mother, sisters and brothers were all very skilled in either painting or calligraphy. Under their guidance, Daqian laid a rich foundation for his fine-line (*gongbi*) painting technique.

At the age of twenty, he was formally apprenticed to Zeng Xi (1861-1930) and Li Ruiqing (1867-1920), two learned scholars and calligraphers, to study calligraphy in Shanghai as well as Chinese history, literature and art.

Owing to the influence of his teachers, Zhang studied and imitated paintings by the Four Monks of the late Ming dynasty, Shi Tao (1642-1707), Bada Shanren (1626-1705), Shi Xi (1612-1673) and Jian Jiang (1610-1644). He mastered their freehand (*xieyi*) painting style. Besides the aforementioned, Daqian followed the styles of Tang Yin (1470-1524), Chen Dao-fu (1483-1544), Xu Wei (1521-1593), as well as all ancient masters in the Song and Yuan dynasties.

His diligence and talent enabled him in a few years to become a master-hand at copying ancient paintings, especially those by Shi Tao. There are numerous stories on how Daqian's copies were verified as the original paintings of Shi Tao. Even his teacher, Li Ruiqing, once bought one of Daqian's copy of Shi Tao from an art dealer.

It is said that in the 1950s, both official and private collections in New York, Paris, and Tokyo included many forgeries by Daqian of ancient paintings.

However, if Daqian was only a forgery master, we would not talk about him in such glowing terms. In the year 1925, Daqian held his first personal art exhibition in Shanghai. He displayed more than a hundred works of mountain and water landscapes, figures, flowers and birds, and walking animals, leaving no doubts over his talent and ability. All the exhibits were sold.

Sixteen years later, Daqian at the age of 42 once again surprised art circles by boldly retreating with family and disciples to Dunhuang, Gansu Province against all the hardships and difficulties the Anti-

Japanese War (1937-1945) posed.

In two years and seven months, he copied 276 paintings of frescoes originally done in the Bei Wei period (386-534), the Sui dynasty, the Tang dynasty, and the Five Dynasties (907-960).

The efforts involved in copying the Dunhuang frescoes helped Daqian to reach a higher level of artistic attainment. Thereafter the heavy colors and rigorous sketches of Dunhuang appeared in his works; meanwhile, inspired by the huge size of



Copy of Shi Tao's Lofty Scholars beneath the Pine Tree

the frescoes, he then dared to challenge himself by composing paintings of generous proportion with sophisticated composition. *Screen painted with Giant Lotus* painted in 1945, with a height of 3.58 meters, and a width of 5.96 meters best illustrates his concept of that time.

In the ten years following his Paris exhibition of 1956, innumerable exhibitions featuring Daqian's paintings were held in major cities in Europe, America and Asia. In 1958, Zhang was proclaimed "The Best Contemporary Painter in the World" by the International Fine Arts Association in New York. His fame gradually escalated and he became one of the first Chinese painters to enjoy global acclaim.

Panorama of Mount Lu

When Zhang was fifty-eight years old, he accidentally hurt his eyes while moving a big stone in his Eight Virtues Garden (*Bade Garden*) in Brazil. People attributed the reduction in the number of his fine-line works after 1957 to his failing eyesight, which they even connected with his invention of the splashed-ink-and-color technique, which does not demand such meticulous brushwork. Zhang himself confirmed that all this was true, but of course far more complex factors lay behind his invention.

Daqian, as a sensitive and perceptive artist, has throughout his life never been tired of exploring the potential of the brush, ink and Chinese pigments. Some say that since he moved overseas after the 1950s, he could not avoid being influenced by modern European paintings, especially in his experiments of splashing ink and colors. But Daqian firmly denied it, pointing out that the history of splashing ink technique could be dated back to Wang Qia of the Tang Dynasty (618-907), and was practiced by great painters Ming Fu, Liang Kai and Shi Ke of the Song Dynasty (960-1279): he merely put something of his own into the traditional technique. Among the exhibits, *Mountains in splash and Landscape in splashed thin crimson ink and colors* are good examples of his splashed-ink-and-color technique.

The painting style of splashing ink and

colors takes Chinese traditional water and ink paintings to a new era of development, and lays the most wholesome foundation for Zhang's style of "mastering all the advantages in the Chinese artistic schools", says Ba Dong, a distinguished art researcher in Taiwan who extensively studies Daqian.

Three years before he died, however, Daqian managed to create a monumental work that made people gape in awe at his verve and courage. *Panorama of Mount Lu* was a grand, ambitious landscape, two meters high and ten meters long [180 x 108 cm], incorporating the comprehensive range of styles that Zhang had mastered throughout his life. Some areas of the painting were rendered in the splashed-ink-and-color method where blues and greens in swirling patterns suffuse the painting surface, making up the images of mountains and forests, while other areas were touched by delicate brushwork and soft washes of ink.

"Though the painting was never completed, with roughly one-fifth of it left undone after the venerable artist passed away, it still ranks among the finest and most representative of Zhang's works," remarked Ba Dong.

Besides his career as a painter, Zhang Daqian also branched out as a calligrapher, art historian, expert on seals, professional appraiser of paintings and calligraphy, collector, garden expert, expert of Peking Opera, gourmet as well as a Chinese scholar strictly conforming to traditional morals and cultural boundaries.

Daqian's productivity is as stunning as versatile. This prolific artist painted an incredible lifetime total of around thirty thousand paintings. Although many were lost due to various reasons, there still remain more than five thousand works.

This year's offerings of classical and modern Chinese paintings at Sotheby's and Christie's in Hong Kong show that Zhang Daqian, with nine of his works achieving 'top ten' prices, is still the painter of the moment, and deserves the title of "the greatest artist of the past half millennium".

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Shanghai, Once Upon A Time in the 1930s



Photo by Cui Jun

By Shi Xinyu

Shanghai was the legend of the Far East, a city that beat back the black of night in the 1930s with resplendent streams of colorful neon lights. A book reviewing images of the mysterious oriental pearl, *Modern Shanghai-Sketches with Essays on Life of the 1930s*, has been selling like crazy since this spring with around 18,000 copies being snapped up by readers, according to its editor Chu Chen.

The capital of fashion, Shanghai 70 years ago was filled with the aroma of coffee; the bouquet of mellow wine; the purr of a local dialect, and delicate, elegant women. All its clamorous, material, exquisite, romantic, sentimental, and exciting aspects were recorded by Guo Jianying (1907 - 1979) in his *Ji-anything's Comic Collections*, published by the Shanghai Good Fellow Press in 1934. *Modern Shanghai-Sketches with Essays on Life of the 1930s* comes mainly from this book of nearly 70 years ago, dug out by Chen Zishan, a professor at East China Normal University researching Chinese literature of the 1920s-30s.

Guo Jianying, whose name has become obscure since the 1940s, was an industrialist and intellectual. In his book, Guo has documented the glare of 1930s' Shanghai cultural history, recording the modernity of upper-middle class thinking, socializing, and dressing. He is the one who understood the soul of 1930s' Shanghai, according to Chen Zishan. The value of Guo's book lies in its uniqueness as a faithful testimony to the enchantment of 1930s' Shanghai in both pictures and words, says editor Chu Chen.

Guo's pictures are charcoal drawings depicting modern city life in Shanghai. Women were the most often used element in his works, while balls, movie shows, rounds of golf, Hollywood stars, fashion models, and new-fashioned couples' dates were all potential material. The special touch of inlaying a few witty words in his drawings made Guo a unique painter in 1930s' Shanghai. Guo was also a prolific illustrator for literature of the time.

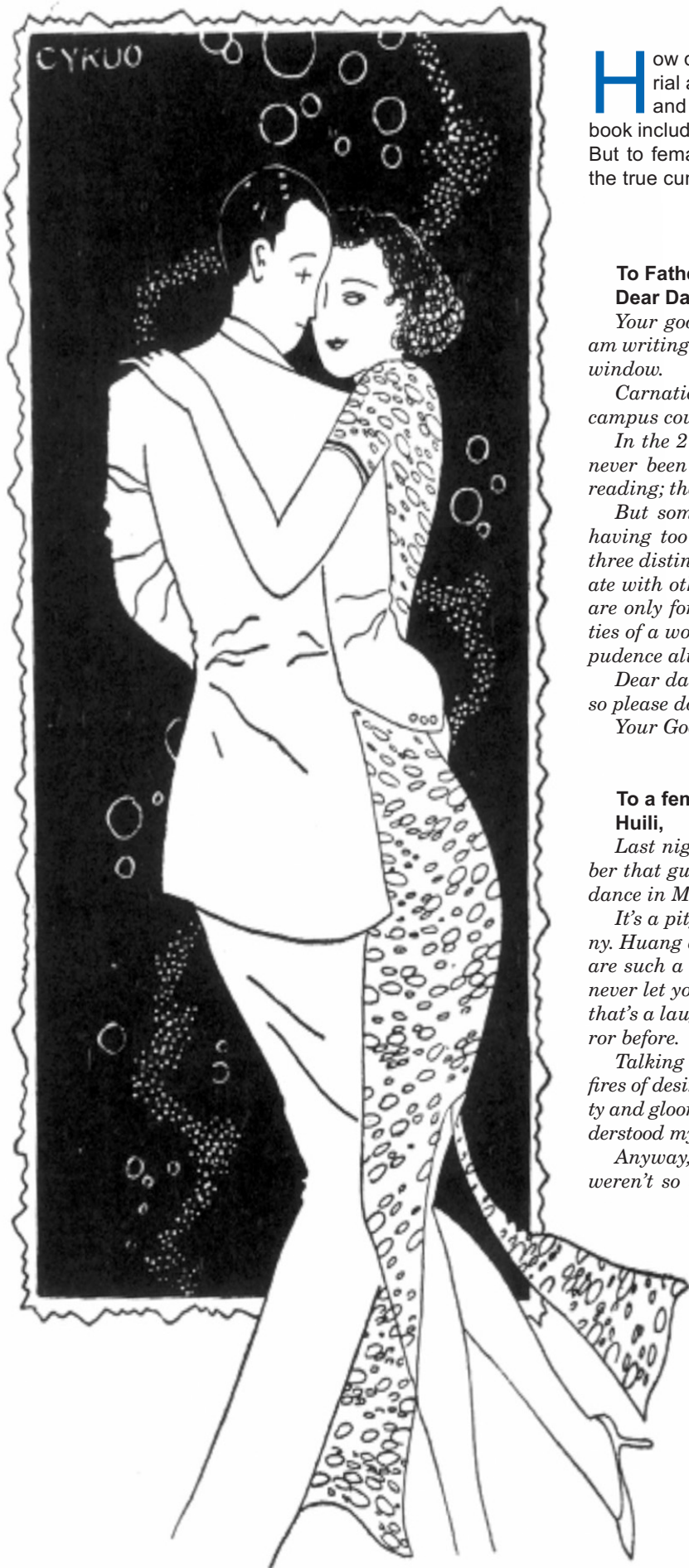


Illustration of the book

How did a young 1930s' schoolgirl balance her life in a material age? She depended on her father for basic living costs, and counted on her boyfriends for pocket money. Guo's book includes sweet, flattering letters from a young girl to two men. But to female friends, the girl removed her disguise and showed the true cunning of a swinging Shanghai maiden of the 1930s.

—From the editor

To Father Dear Daddy,

Your good girl has just finished reading her textbooks. And I am writing this letter in the bright sunrays streaming through the window.

Carnations are bathed in the warm sunshine peacefully in the campus courtyard, and my heart is as tranquil as the flowers.

In the 2 months since this semester began, your good girl has never been near any game or party. What interests me most is reading; the clamors of Shanghai really make me scared.

But sometimes your good girl cannot help feeling lonely for having too few friends around her. Anyway, apart from two or three distinguished, decent, model girls, I would not like to associate with others. I cannot accept those flirtatious young girls: they are only fond of making friends with boys and even cast the duties of a woman aside to walk with boys hand in hand! Their impudence always makes your shy girl blush.

Dear daddy, your good girl will never make you disappointed, so please do not bother missing me too much.

Your Good Girl Mixi in Shanghai

To a female friend Huili,

Last night, Shuzhen and I invited Huang and Shen (Remember that guy, Shen Ziwei who is something like Gary Cooper?) to dance in Moon Palace in North Sichuan Road.

It's a pity you weren't there. These two silly men are really funny. Huang asked me to kiss him all the time, and said, "Your lips are such a lively, enchanting red like the tongue of a viper. I will never let you go if you don't give me a kiss." Hey, don't you reckon that's a laugh? It seems he has never seen his stupid face in a mirror before.

Talking about Ziwei, this guy always silently gazed at me. The fires of desire are deeply hidden behind the ostensible sentimentality and gloom in his eyes. Finally I got sick of his gaze, but he misunderstood my reaction, and rebuked me with a load of verbal crap.

Anyway, these two stupid guys are so boring. If their wallets weren't so bulging, who would want to go out with them? Well, write to you later if anything interesting happens.

Yours, Mixi

To Boyfriend Ziwei, My only love,

I am still inebriated after running out of the Moon Palace last night. There, your hugs, your kisses, your press, your passion, and your wild and violent body bewitched me. You crude savage! But I have to confess I love that.

Ziwei, My only love,

I'm sorry I could not give you the last thing I have last night. And I believe you will love more than before because of that.

Thanks for your 200-yuan pocket money. I have planned a shopping tour to Nanjing Road in two or three days' time, would you like to go together with me?

Mixi -Your Little Lily

Shanghai in the 1930s

Tastes of Modernity

Gum: stuff in the mouth of every modern girl on the road to RENDEZVOUS.

Lemon squash: the taste of your first love, an experience mixed with pleasure and pain.

Clover cocktail: if you fall in love with a lady who gets slightly pink in the cheeks, and whose heart flutters after a clover cocktail, your wallet will always be in a state of bankruptcy.

Ice cream, brand Beauty: the taste of a kiss? How humble and vulgar her lips are!

Coffee Candy: she takes it out from her pocket, splits it into two pieces, and shares it with him, silently on the grass...

Absinth: if you meet a girl who enjoys drinking Absinth, you could marry her peacefully, and after months of exciting marriage life, you could separate with her, also peacefully.

Things in Ladies' Heads

Movies - Cocktails - Jazz Music - Garbo, Dietrich - Cloth to Make Cheong-sam - Ice-Cream - Saxophone - Rouge - Da Guang Ming Shopping Mall - Kiss - Hug - Waltz - Mr. - Introduce - Rendezvous - Hollywood - Check in - Eroticism - In Love - Anti-marriage - Errand-husband - Hijack - Cars - Revue - No-Stocking-ism - Dog Racing - Mellow - Stimulate - Nonsense-ism - A.B.C. - Dancing Ball - Male Heat - Non-sentimentalism - Hormone, Hormone, Hormone - Money, Money, Money, Money!!

Examples of Shanghai Pidgin English

No wantchee: I don't want that.
Pay my: Give it to me.
Bye-bye makee pay: I'll pay later.
Walkee-walkee fish: Live fish
Chop chop: Quickly
B'long my pikgin: That's my business.
This b'long number one: This is very good.
Talkee my: Let me know.
Pay chow: Serve food

Nocturne of Nanjing Road, some low tastes

Dustcarts ran amuck.
Feet of Japanese women, the moustache of their men.
Cunning and unsteady faces of dodgy Chinese men
Men with vanishing creams and make-up powders
Terrible scent of people from north of the Yangtze River
Pulp colors of the shops' windows
Hubbub from newsboys
Fatigued people

* Nanjing Road is the busiest road in Shanghai



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The Tan Duns Are Changing

By Zhu Lin

After composing a piece exploiting the sounds of paper, Tan Dun tried his hand at water in concert on October 26 in Beijing. Recognized as one of the leading composers in the world, Tan conducted his 'Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon' Fervor and Concerto for Water Percussion and Orchestra-in Memory of Toru Takemitsu at the Poly Theatre.

"I used to pursue weird 'avant-garde music', but now, that's what I hate the most. Truly avant-garde music just exists in our real lives," Tan Dun said. His words were proved without a doubt that night at the concert. Tan has been changing his style, and his turnabout indicates a new trend in avant-garde music circles.

In *Concerto for Water Percussion and Orchestra*, two large glass basins full of water stood at the front of the stage. American percussionist David Cossin's instruments were drawn from daily life. He had two ways to produce sound with these objects. One style involved splashing the water in the basins with glass bottles, shakers and tubes. Another entailed beating gongs, floating gourd ladles and many other materials using paddles, or his hands. Sometimes he beat the surface of the water; sometimes he put the instruments into the water basins and beat them under the water.

Different sounds spread around the concert hall through the microphones set up beside the instruments. Everything happening in the water was shown behind the stage through a video camera. Besides the vision and sound of the water, in 'Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon' Fervor, the orchestral movements were accompanied by video footage created by An Lee and James Schamus from material produced during the making of the film. The computer-generated mock-ups of old Beijing were intermingled with images of contemporary Beijing and New York City.

"In the 21st century, I suppose music and visual arts can never be set apart," said Tan, "It's



The percussionist David Cossin

Photos by Lu Beifeng

a trend." Tan has already tried to explore multimedia possibilities since *Ghost Opera* in 1994. Musicians of today try to win support and collaboration not only from multimedia, but also from the audiences and sponsors. Tan Dun is one of the most successful.



Red Star Rises In Solitude

By Zhao Pu

"This is a story about solitude, solitude of human life as a social phenomenon instead of an individual problem," revealed Zhang Guangtian in talking about the theme of his third drama production, the first one to be based on modern life, named *Red Star Beauty*. The drama is to be staged at the Mini Theatre of Beijing People's Art Theatre from November 5 to 30.

The story records the ups and downs of a girl's life on her journey to seeking a livelihood in Beijing, faraway from her hometown, a mining area on China's southwestern plateau. Her life is like the moon above a hill in her childhood worries, sliding up and down constantly in danger of being bruised by rocks. "The story stresses the distance between ideals and reality, responding to the words the girl writes on the cliff by her home at the end, 'Keep a distance!'" says Zhang.

Zhang started his directing career with a historical epic drama *Che Guevara*, his maiden work in 2000. Subsequently, Lu Xun, the father of modern Chinese literature, was the inspiration for his second production earlier this year. Both of them provoked heated debate among professionals and audiences alike, with challenging motifs and unique performances. Confronted with fierce critiques and enthusiastic acclamations at the same time, the seasoned composer uttered confidently, "We're gonna put on our shows with gusto!"

A long way from his first two productions, which adopted music as the major form of expression, Zhang mainly uses dialogues and gestures to depict the plot in *Red Star Beauty*. "I'm trying out different forms of drama which of course should be diversified instead of remaining monotonous and conservative," declared Zhang.



Photo Provided by Yuan Hong

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Old Beijing Noodles

Best Bites

By Li Dan

"Lao Beijing Zha Jiang Mian" refers to a special kind of noodles with fried bean sauce in old Beijing style. Have you ever tasted it? It is a typical and delicious old Beijing dish.

Yiwanju (一碗居) is a restaurant specializing in old Beijing style cuisine; Yiwan means a bowl of, Ju means house. Here you can not only sample authentic old Beijing Zhajiangmian (as well as many other traditional dishes) but also enjoy Beijing Opera performances every weekend. Reopening after renovations a month ago, the restaurant looks more elegant than ever, with old photos adorning the wall illustrating the lives of ordinary Beijingers before the founding of the PRC. Scenes such as kids kicking a shuttlecock, old men smoking their water pipes, people playing with crickets, street barbers, neighbors paying New Year visits, and traditional weddings give the restaurant a truly old-world atmosphere.

The restaurant is fitted out in traditional Chinese architectural style, with red roof, gray bricks, complementing the square wooden tables and stools. Old wheelbarrows and rickshaws and various knick-knacks have been used as decorations. Two cute myna birds delight the patrons with their loud and frequent cries of "Ni Hao!", "Gong Xi Fa Cai!" (Congratulations and may you be prosperous) "Yi Lu Ping'an!" (Have a good trip) and "Zai Jian!" (Goodbye).

Zhajiangmian remains a favorite dish of Beijingers. It is easy to make and delicious to eat. The noodles are boiled, then covered with the delicious smelling fried bean sauce. Hungry people would swallow all the noodles down in a matter of seconds and ask for another big bowl. Apart from fried bean sauce, Yiwanju offers a choice of 18 other sauces and soup for your noodles, such as tomato and egg, beef extract, mutton extract, diced meat sauce, onion sauce and so on, as well as some 30 old Beijing style snacks and 50 dishes. There are several restaurants specializing in Zhajiangmian in Beijing, and Yiwanju has a loyal following. Dining here on steaming hot Zhajiangmian in the blue and white bowls, you may experience yourself the genuine old Beijing life.

Price: 6-14 yuan/bowl.

Add: 22 Pufanglu (蒲芳路), Fangzhuang Residential Area, east side of Fangzhuang Shopping Mall, underground.

Open: 11am-10:30pm. Beijing Opera show Fri, Sat and Sun, 6:30pm-9pm.

Tel: 67666667.

Also: #5 Building, Area 4, Anhuili, Asian Games Village, Chaoyang district, bus 108, 358, 328 to Yayuncun, 300 meters east of Yayuncun Post Office. 11am-10pm. **Tel:** 64911258.



ARTIFICIAL STONE ART MORE ARTISTIC

By Jiao Pei

Walking along Guozijian Dajie, you will see a small shop with an exterior wall made of transparent pieces of glass. Inside are all kinds of sculptures, some hanging on the wall, others placed on the floor.

This is an exhibition room of Beijing Baogui Artificial Stone Technology, and the goods on show are all for sale. Zhang Baogui, the designer and owner, has been designing and manufacturing these sculptures for 14 years. Zhang spent 20 years living in the countryside, and maybe his inspiration comes from his experience of living with peasants. He became involved in this line of work as a means of supporting his family. However, after 14 years, he has become a renowned artist and has designed relief sculptures for the Beijing International Conference Center, Beijing Asian Games Village, Poly Theater and the Museum of Chinese History, among other places. These works are all large scale, but those in the shop are all 'home' size.

Some of the relief sculptures have the appearance of copper, but in fact they are all made of cement and colored with stone powder. This is a creation of Zhang Baogui. The material is both cheap and suited to such creative work. The shapes and patterns of his works verge on the abstract, with themes such as the universe, the development of human beings, life, etc. Prices range from tens of yuan to 100,000 yuan, and if you are interested in a large scale relief sculpture, you can contact Zhang's factory to order.

Add: A2, Guozijian Dajie (国子监大街), Dongcheng District.

Open: 9am-9pm.

Tel: 64043507.

Factory add: 1 km west of Xiguan Huandao, Changping County, Beijing. Tel: 89746040, 89703776.

Web: www.baogui.com.cn



Wonderful Home Furnishing

By Jiao Pei

With people focusing on beautifying their living surroundings and home decorating, one of the new hotspots for consumer spending, many large shopping centers specializing in home furnishings have opened in Beijing in recent years. Wangshibaili (Wonderful Home Furnishing 旺市百利) is situated on Chaowaidajie, between Landao Shopping Center and Fullink. It used to be Hailanyuntian Home Furnishings, a shopping center specializing in imported home-ware, which closed down three years ago. What's the difference between the old and the new? Will this one last and become prosperous? Time will tell!

Wonderful Home Furnishings covers three stories. The 1st floor is divided into many small, independent exhibition rooms. Every room is furnished as a family home, and each one has its own unique characteristics; some feature classical Chinese design, and others are decorated in western style. The second and third floor, which opened yesterday, are in the form of a supermarket.

You can find just about anything related to home decoration you can imagine at Wonderful Home Furnishing, from lounge room suites to thumbtacks, and if you can't find what you are looking for, special orders are also taken.

Free consultation is provided (only in Chinese at present) and a series of pamphlets are available on selecting goods, de-

Herbal Tea for the Health Conscious

By Li Dan

Opposite the north gate of Worker's Stadium is a teahouse that you might easily pass by without noticing. Looking through the window, you will see people chatting and sipping tea, swaying leisurely back and forth in the hanging swing-chairs. The teahouse, called Shan Jia Ya Yuan (Idyllic and elegant house), specializes in herbal teas, a relatively untapped market in Beijing.

From the outside, the teahouse appears to be quite small, but there are actually three separate little teahouses inside. The outer one is decked out like a log cabin in a forest. Sitting in one of those swing-chairs sipping fragrant herbal tea while watching the busy street outside looks very appealing. Through a small passageway is a reading room with the latest fashion, auto, computer and business magazines from Taiwan, Japan and South Korea scattered around the tables. In the corner, and a little unexpectedly, are two computers, for games and Internet, an indication of the owner's attention to detail. There is one more cute little room, almost hidden at the far end of the shop, the 'seaside' room. This creatively designed room is lit with soft blue light. Under the glass floor are sand and shells, and there are shell and fish-shaped niches in the walls.

The owner Xu Zhihong is from Taiwan.

"Herbal tea actually originated in Europe, and has become a popular beverage for the health conscious," he says, adding that, "it can cure hypertension and colds, rejuvenate and beautify the body, aid digestion and so on". The ingredients used include rose petals, lavender, jasmine, cottonrose, fig, lemon and chrysanthemum. Herb tea culture is not as steeped in tradition as its Chinese counterpart, but is more like a daily or leisure drink, which is why it attracts many young people.

For a pot of herbal tea, you can expect to pay 15-35 yuan. Hope you enjoy it!

Add: opposite the north gate of Worker's Stadium, by the pedestrian overpass.

Open: 10am - 1am

Tel: 64155719



Photos by Chen Shuyi

What's your favorite shop, stand, bar or restaurant? We will be very happy to share your experience with all our readers and don't forget, a mystery gift is waiting for you if we print your story. Please contact us at 65902524 or 13910916642. Email: shopping@ynet.com.

sign and fitting etc.

Add: 1 F, 10 Chaowaidajie, Chaoyang District, opposite Dongyue Temple.

Open: 9am-9pm. **Tel:** 65993318.

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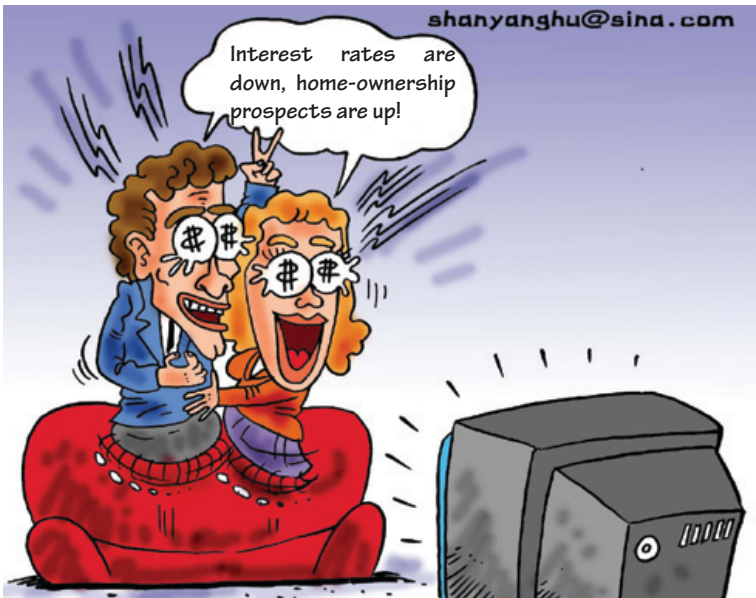
How to get a USD loan

By Wang Dandan

Last week, we said this was a good time for foreign residents in Beijing to purchase an apartment in USD loans. Today, we introduce detailed procedures of how to get a USD loan.

According to Fang Xiao, deputy director of The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) in China, it's easy and the whole process should take no more than a week.

You must first get a license from the municipal real estate bureau allowing you to buy an apartment in China, and fill out a loan application from the bank. The documents you will require are: an income certificate; a tax certificate for the past 6 months (if you pay tax in your own country, you must obtain a notarized copy in Chinese and English); a record of your bank account for the last 6 months; proof of address, such as a telephone bill; passport, Beijing temporary residence permit, apartment purchase contract with the real estate



company and receipt for the first payment. Foreign employees of a purchasing organization should have their Chinese names notarized before signing any documents.

Upon approval of your application, you will sign relevant documents with the bank, regarding loan contract, warranty contract

and so on, and open an individual account for the loan.

The bank will deliver these documents to the real estate company and pay the loan into the company's account, and you should then repay the loan and interest as per terms of the contract.

Loan rates vary according to the international market. At present,

the rate is 5.5%, if it rises, of course your loan rate will also increase.

HSBC only provide loans to people under the age of 60. The period of the loan is determined, in part, by your age. If you are 45, then the maximum period you can get a loan for will be 15 years. The longest period available for a loan is 20 years, for 70% of the total cost.

At present, HSBC only offers loans in USD and HK dollars.

Taxes and special fees:

Stamp tax is 0.5% of the purchasing price. Contract tax is 3-5% of the price. Other applicable fees may include those for maintenance and care of public facilities and areas.

The following five certificates should be examined for proof of the projects legality; the Right of Use of State-Owned Land, the Planning Permit of Land Use, the Planning Permit of Engineering, the Construction Permit of the Project, and the Sales (or Sales in advance) Permit of the Commercial House.



How much for 24 hour hot water?

By Wang Dandan/Yan Ming

What recourses are available if you are cheated when you purchase a new house? Which details require particular attention when you are signing a contract with developers? What if the problems cannot be resolved, even after discussion with the developers?

Starting with this edition, Beijing Today presents a series of articles concerning such questions by way of interviewing judges from the Beijing Second Intermediate People's Court. By doing so, we hope that such cases will not be repeated when our readers purchase a house or apartment in Beijing.

Mr. X, from Japan, liked the apartment so much as it appeared on the blueprint: beautiful garden, 24-hour hot water, security and even a house keeping service.

However after moving into the apartment, he found that not only was there no 24-hour hot water, there was no hot water at all! What's more, when he went and raised the matter with the developers, he was told he could buy an electric water heater himself!

Mr. X argued about the issue with the developers at great length. His request was very simple, he simply wanted the developers to pay for the water heater. However they continued to refuse this small and clearly reasonable request. This so annoyed Mr. X



he finally decided to turn to the courts for help.

He sued the developers in early 2001. Even in court, they did not want to pay for the heater, arguing that all

the pipelines had been prepared for 24-hour hot water, but because of a technical problem, it could not be installed.

The judge finally ruled in favor of Mr. X, and the developers were ordered to not only pay for the heater, but also about 4,000 yuan in compensation.

The case was finally settled, but it took up a lot of Mr. X's time and energy. He suggests that before purchasing a house, prospective buyers should sign a compensation contract with developers in case something that should be provided, is not.

Purchasing trap

Do not be in a rush to sign

By Wang Dandan

Is everything settled once you sign the contract and move into your new apartment? The answer is definitely no! There are many troublesome traps waiting, even after you have settled in to your new home.

Trap one: Facility floors

Facility floors are an indispensable part of high-rise buildings. Pipelines, water pumps and electricity facilities are gathered here. However, developers may well forget to mention when you purchase the apartment that your floor is right below the facility floor. And when you move into the apartment you will find many pipelines that did not appear in the blueprint, crisscrossing back and forth and occupying your space.

If you check with developers now, they'll tell you that this is unavoidable. It is regular and necessary to have these pipelines.

Countermeasure: Ask the developer to specify on the contract exactly where all the pipelines are located, on which floor, and the detailed names of the pipelines.

Trap two: things that go bump at night

You might be attracted by the idea of a pent-house apartment, you like the design and everything is OK after you check the area. But the night after you move in, you find that the water pump in the roof is only a few meters away from the bedroom. When it starts to work, the noise is so loud that you cannot sleep a wink. Yet this is not mentioned in the blueprint you saw at the sales office. The only thing you can do is to try to become accustomed to the racket of the pump.

Countermeasure: Check the blueprint and find out exactly what machinery and utilities are located on the roof, and which ones make a noise.

Trap three: Other buildings blocking out your light

You move into the new apartment, only to find that the neighboring building is taller than the blueprint shows.

You want to buy a presale apartment, and you see that there is a 2-story club just in front of your building. However, a year later,



when you move in, you see that the club is now 3-stories and 5 meters higher than the planned height. What's more, it blocks out the sunshine in your first floor bedroom.

This is a common problem at present. In order to maximize profits, many developers increase the height of buildings.

Countermeasure: If you see a club or a building in front of your apartment, require the developers to include in the contract that the building can not be higher than "x" meters.

Trap four: Property right is invalid

After you move into a new apartment in the countryside, the developers promise you that the property right certificate will soon be settled. However, there is a potential trap here if it is a village property right.

You like the apartment, and it is not expensive. After you negotiate with developers you get the house at 1,787 per square meter. When you pay your deposit and go to the Beijing Real Estate Bureau to get the property right certificate, you are told that your apartment is an il-

legal one and you can not get the certificate, meaning that you can live there for as long as you like, but you can never resell it.

The reason is that the land is zoned as collective land, and developer did not take any procedures to legally acquire the state land. You want to get back your money but are refused by the developers. As they may explain, such price will definitely have a village property right certificate.

Countermeasure: Such apartments are usually the cooperation of developers and the village government. They build on the collective-zoned land and sell at a very low price. They do not have legal certificates to sell the buildings. According to the "City Real Estate Management Law", such projects are illegal, and the contract purchase signed with the developers is not a legal contract. You can demand your money back and compensation, but it might take a lengthy court procedure.

When you buy a house, it is vital to ensure the development is a legal one.

Renting in the north

North Third Ring Road

By Wang Dandan

Today, we look at apartment prices around the north Third Ring Road, from Suzhouqiao in the west to Sanyuanqiao in the east.

Suzhouqiao to Jimenqiao

Prices around here range from about 1,500 yuan for a simply decorated, fully furnished one-room apartment to 1,800 yuan for a two room and 2,200 yuan for a three room apartment. More elaborately decorated apartments might cost between 1,800 and 2,000 yuan for one room, and up to 2,500 yuan for two rooms.

The area is quite convenient, with good traffic and living environment. Dazhongsi Sea Food Market sells live seafood, at very cheap price. People's University, one of the top universities in China is located in this area. It is also not far from Beijing Foreign Studies University where you can learn Chinese in your spare time. And whatever country you come from, you'll find someone that understand your mother tongue at BFSU.

Jimenqiao to Beitaiping Qiao

A simply decorated, fully furnished one room apartment costs around 1,400 yuan, two room, 1,600 yuan and three room 2,000 to 2,300 yuan. Better quality apartments cost 1,700 yuan (one room) and 2,100 yuan (two rooms).

The traffic can be very annoying in this area. There always seems to be a traffic jam around Beitaiping Qiao. Beijing Normal University is just 100m from the bridge, and is a good place for an evening stroll. There is also a park in Huangsi Street, called Rendinghu Garden. It is a small one, but was recently equipped with a swimming pool, which will be handy next summer.

Beitaiping Qiao to Anhua Qiao

The average price for one room with simple decoration and full facilities is 1,200 yuan, two room 1,600 yuan and three room 1,900 yuan.

Compared with other places in the north Third Ring Road, the prices here are low. Traffic jams are a daily inconvenience. North-south, Zhongzhou Road is always slow for traffic, and east-west, the ring road is jammed during rush hour. The China Science Hall is located just beside the bridge.

Anhua Qiao to Hepingxi Qiao

A one room apartment costs around 1,600 yuan, two room 2,000 yuan and three room 2,500 yuan. More elaborately decorated apartments might cost between 1,800 and 2,000 yuan for one room, and up to 2,500 yuan for two rooms. A good place for living, with many restaurants and supermarkets.

Hepingxi Qiao to Sanyuan Qiao

The average price for one room with simple decoration and full facilities is 1,500 yuan, two room 1,800 yuan and three room 2,000 yuan. China International Exhibition Hall is located in this area, and whenever there are exhibitions on, traffic jams are inevitable. A Carrefour supermarket is also nearby; very convenient for shopping.

Guest **Target: The St. Regis Beijing**
When: 18:30-19:50, Monday, October 29th
Quiz **Hotel Detective: Wang Dandan**
Andre Agassi, Russia

To be frank, this is the best hotel I've ever lived in Beijing. There is always something fresh upon checking in. Things like a card, a bunch of flowers (of course, not red roses), or a basket of fruit. It is not strange to have all these. The point is they can remember what kind of fruit I like by checking the fruit I leave in the basket. I like this service. It makes me feel good, just like at home, sitting beside my mum.

Rabbi Joseph Potasnik, America

I used to be working in hotels and I know every detail. Here is excellent. The

rest room is cleaned every 5 minutes. Staff here are very professional. Seldom can hotel staff be professional, though they may be excellent. Being professional is challenging.

Gul Ahmad, Mexico

I am only 12 years old. I just stay here with my parents. It is my request to stay here! I like this hotel. I like the waitress in the restaurant. They never regard me as a child, but a gentleman! I like being respected as an adult! When I stay in other hotels, the only word I get is "lovely". I hate being lovely, I want to be mature!

Beijing **By Andy Xu**
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Music

Orchestra National du Capitole de Toulouse

Conductor: Michel Plasson, Bizet: Symphony in C; Berlioz: Symphonie Fantastique. **When:** Nov. 3, 4, 7:30pm. **Admission:** 100-380 yuan, 280-1000 yuan. **Where:** Poly Theater.

**Swingle Singers- Miraculous Vocal Instruments from Britain**

When: Nov. 5, 7:30pm. **Admission:** 100-280 yuan, 210-380 yuan. **Where:** Poly Theater.

The Night of Spain

Concerto de Aranjuez; Fantasia para un Gentilhomme; Concierto Andaluz; Guitar: Margarita Escarpa, Wang Zhen; Orchestra of the China National Opera; Conductor: Li Xincuo. **When:** Nov. 6, 7:30pm. **Admission:** 100-280 yuan, 210-380 yuan. **Where:** Poly Theater.

Shanghai Quartet from New York

Barber: String Quartet, op. 11. Dvorak: "American" Quartet. Schubert: Death and the Maiden Quartet. **When:** Nov. 6, 7:30pm. **Admission:** 50-180 yuan. **Where:** Beijing Concert Hall.

Norio Ohga with Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra

Violin: Lidia Baich; J. Strauss: Die Fledermaus Overture; Bruch: Violin Concerto No. 1 in G minor; Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 5. **When:** Nov. 7, 7:30pm. **Admission:** 180-580 yuan, 380-1000 yuan. **Where:** Poly Theater.

4th Beijing Music Festival Closing Ceremony

Tokyo Philharmonic Orches-

tra; Conductor: Norio Ohga, Soprano: Cheryl Studer; Wagner: Tannhauser Overture; Arias from Wagner; Dvorak: Symphony No. 9. **When:** Nov. 8, 7:30pm. **Where:** Poly Theater. **Admission:** 180-680 yuan, 480-1000 yuan. **Tel:** 65001188-5682.

Music at Get Lucky

Pieces of Sound, Beautiful Drug Store, Mu Tui Gua, Ruins. **Where:** Get Lucky, east of the south gate of Duiwai Jingmao Daxue (对外经贸大学). **When:** Nov. 2, 9pm. **Admission:** 20 yuan, 30 yuan. **Tel:** 64299109.

Hundred birds flying towards phoenix

China Central Nationalities Orchestra. **Where:** China Central Nationalities Music Exhibition Hall, 15 Xiaoying Road. Bus: 18, 119, 406, 408 or 379 to Xiaoying. **When:** till Dec. 30. **Admission:** 120, 72, 48, 24 yuan. **Tel:** 64919081

**Dabao Music Show**

With the theme of environmental protection, the show will mainly feature Mongolian nationality music. **Where:** Nationalities Hotel (中国民族饭店). Bus: 15 or 1 to Minzu Hotel. **Tel:** 65598352, 66022770. **When:** Nov. 9, 10. **Admission:** 70-280 yuan.

Parties

Plus 10 Party

Some of the best DJs in town will do their thing, including Amil, Khan, Shin Nishimura, and Mickey. **Where:** Club Vogue, north of City Hotel. **When:** Nov. 2. **Admission:** 100 yuan (at the door), 80 yuan (in advance). **Tel:** 13901168546.

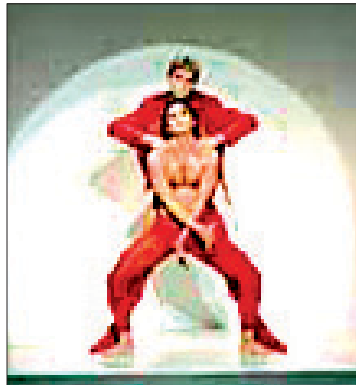
**Young Professional Happy Hour**

A postponed Halloween party. **Where:** Sgt. Pepper's, west gate of Chaoyang Park. **When:** Nov. 2. **Tel:** 65386886-3819.

Performances

Ballet for Life

Maurice Bejart, a legendary figure in world dance circles and his Ballet for Life make their debut in Asia. The combination of the music of rock band Queen and Mozart is all covered up with the designs of Gianni Versace. **Where:** Century Theater (世纪剧院), Sino-Japanese Youth Center, 40 Liangmaqiaolu, Chaoyang District. **When:** Nov. 9-11, 7:30pm. **Admission:** 200-800 yuan. **Tel:** 65610651/52.

**Asia Arts Festival**

Sri Lankan, Malaysian and Inner Mongolian Arts troupes give song & dance performances. **Where:** Tianqiao Theater (天桥剧院), 30 Beiweilu, Xuanwu District, bus 105, 106, 120. **When:** Nov. 3-7, 7:30pm. **Admission:** 20-180 yuan. **Tel:** 83156170.

Red Star Beauty A girl comes to Beijing to begin her new life. This modern



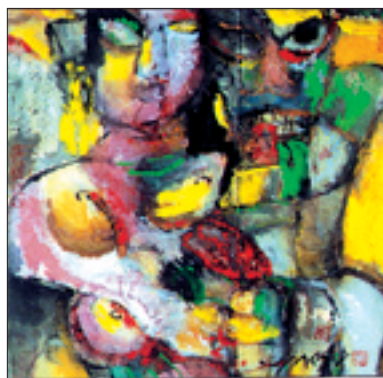
drama tells her emotion and life. Directed by Zhang Guangtian, starring Yang Ting, Zhai Xiaoxing, Tang Xu, Zhou Kui, etc. **Where:** Mini Theater of Beijing People's Art Theater (人艺小剧院), 22 Wangfujing Dajie, Dongcheng District. **When:** Nov. 5-30, 7:15pm (except Mondays) **Admission:** 80 yuan. **Tel:** 65135801.



Exhibitions

Comprehensive Exhibition by artists of Creation Gallery

Famous, established and budding artists, including Lu Chen, Jia Haiyi, Nie Ou, Li Xiaoke, etc. **Where:** Creation Gallery, north exit of Ritan Donglu, Chaoyang District, opposite the northeast corner of Ritan Park. **When:** till Nov. 2-Nov. 23, 10am-7pm. Opening reception: Nov. 2, 3-7pm. **Admission:** Free. **Tel:** 65067570.

**Peru Paintings Exhibitions**

Where: Yan Huang Art Gallery (炎黄艺术馆), 9 Huizhonglu, Haidian District. **When:** Nov. 8-11. **Admission:** 5 yuan. **Tel:** 64912902.

Paintings focusing on China's West

Landscapes and customs of western China. **Where:** Clavichord Cafe (古钢琴咖啡屋), 1F, Tower B, COFCO Plaza, 8 Jianguomennei Dajie. **Where:** Nov. 3, 10am-midnight. **Tel:** 65264145.

Ma Xuepeng Painting Exhibition

100 paintings on show including the 130m *Jinxu Guandong*. **Where:** National Art Gallery, bus 103, 104 and 108 to Meishuguan. **Tel:** 64016234.

When: till Nov. 4. **Admission:** 10 yuan.

Beijing International Sound & Disc Exhibition

Many famous acoustics companies will take part in this exhibition. **Where:** State Guest Hotels Presidential Plaza (国宾饭店), take subway to Xizhimen. **Tel:** 64299425, 68005588. **When:** Nov. 2 to Nov. 4. **Admission:** free.

Cuban Art

About Cuban paintings. **Where:** 48 Wangfujing Street, Dongcheng District, International Art Palace. **When:** till Nov. 6, 9am-6pm. **Tel:** 65133388-1207.

Zhang Daqian's Art

Zhang Daqian enjoys popularity equal to that of Xu Beihong and Qi Baishi. This exhibition will show almost 80 of his marvelous works from 1928 to 1978, including landscapes, flowers and birds, figures as well as his calligraphy, poems and comments about Chinese art history. This joint exhibition includes works from the mainland and from Taiwan. **Where:** China History Museum, east side of Tian'anmen Square, bus 1, 4, 52, 57, 10, 20 or subway to Tian'anmen East. **When:** till Jan 5 2002, 9am. **Ticket:** 50 yuan. **Tel:** 65128321.

"Portraits, Figures, Couples and Groups" A selection from the Modern Chinese Art Foundation collection at CAAW, Beijing. **Where:** Chinese Art Archives & Warehouse (中国艺术文件仓库), east side of the Railway Bridge, Caochangdi Cun, Chaoyang District. **When:** Nov, 1pm-6pm, Tue-Sun. **Tel:** 64655152.

Movies

Chinese Movie with English Subtitles Lunar Eclipse

One actress plays the roles of two women. One is a beautiful, cultured intellectual, and the other is a strip-tease dancer and karaoke lounge girl at the bottom of the Beijing underworld. An innocent young taxi driver meets both of them and almost rescues them from their fates. It won the "Judges Award" at the 2000 Moscow International Film Festival. **Where:** Cherry Lane Movies, Sino-Japanese Youth Exchange Center, Intl. Conference Hall, 40 Liangmaqiaolu, 1 km east of the Kempinski Hotel. **When:** Nov. 9, 8pm. **Admission:** 50 yuan. **Tel:** 64615318/9.

**Korean Movie - Swirl**

Produced by Kang Je Gyu Film; Director: Kang Je Gyu; Starring Li Ying' ai, Chio Min Sic. **Where:** 5F, Hyundi Millennium Tower (现代盛世大厦), 38 Xiaoyunlu, Chaoyang District. **When:** Nov. 9, 5:30pm. **Tel:** 84538112/3.

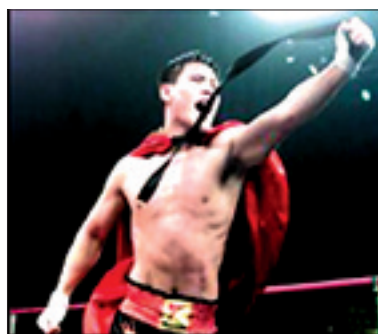
The Mummy Returns

The hero and heroine are married with a young son. And Anck-su-Numam is revived and sets her sights on the boy. Directed by Stephen Sommers. Cinemas around Beijing.

Sports & Activities

Martial Arts Competition

Over 200 competitors from all over China will take part, all at the professional level including last year's champions. **Where:** Olympic Sports Center, bus: 104 or 108 to Yayuncun. **When:** till Dec. 31. **Tel:** 64910920. **Admission:** 280, 150, 80, 50 yuan.

**Chinese Culture Club**

Learn to play ping-pong at one of the top table tennis courts in Beijing. Tables, bats and balls are all provided free. **Where:** 2F Jiebao Zhixing Sports Company, inside the Haidian Sports Center, west of Beijing University. **When:** Nov. 3, 10pm-12am.

Discovering Chinese Culture through movies

A free talk given by Michael Primont, of Cherry Lane Movies. **Where:** Bamboo Garden Hotel, 24 Xiaoshijiao Hutong, Jiu Gulou Street, Northwest of the Drum Tower. **When:** Nov. 4, 2:30pm-4pm. **Tel:** 84622081/13501035145. **Email:** chinese_cultureclub@hotmail.com **Web:** www.chinese_cultureclub.org

Chinese-German Literature Seminar

Introduction to the newest literature works of Germany. Some writers, commentators and publishers will join in. **Where:** Goethe Institute, Beijing, west exit of Weigongcunlu, opposite south gate of Beijing Ligong Daxue (北京理工大学). **When:** Nov. 9-13. **Tel:** 68417891.

Weather

Friday November 2

Clear to cloudy
Max: 17C. Min: 5C.

**Saturday November 3**

Clear to overcast
Max: 16C. Min: 4C.

**Sunday November 4**

Cloudy to overcast, showers
Max: 13C. Min: 5C.

**Monday November 5**

Overcast to clear
Max: 15C. Min: 2C.

**Tuesday November 6**

Clear
Max: 15C. Min: 2C.

**Wednesday November 7**

Clear
Max: 17C. Min: 3C.

**Thursday November 8**

Clear to cloudy
Max: 15C. Min: 4C.



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By Priscilla / Lydia / Hydie

Auctions

**Autumn Auction of Guardian 2001**

Fu Baoshi Elite Paintings Nov. 4, 9:30am. Chinese paintings collected by Tianxinlou, Nov. 4 10:30am. Furniture, pottery, jade articles, Nov. 4, 1:30pm. Ancient Chinese paintings and calligraphy, Nov. 4, 7pm. Chinese oil paintings and sculptures, Nov. 4, 10am. Ancient books, Nov. 4, 1:30pm. modern Chinese paintings and calligraphy, Nov. 5 9:30am, 1:30pm. Stamps and coins, Nov. 5, 9:30am, 11am, 1:30pm. Preview, Nov. 1-3, 9am-6pm. **Where:** Multi-function Hall, Beijing Kunlun Hotel. **Tel:** 65903388-5527.

Autumn Auction 2001 by Pacific International Auction 4 Types of articles, altogether over 1,000 pieces, including

paintings and calligraphy, precious jade, pottery and antiques, jadeite, pearls and jewels, and classical furniture. **Where:** Conference Hall, 18F Tower A, Kingwing Hotspring Hotel (京瑞大厦), Dongsanhuan Nanlu, Chaoyang District. **When:** preview: Nov. 1-3, 9am-8pm. Nov. 4, 9-11am, jade, pottery. 11am-11:30am, jadeite, pearls and jewels. 11:30am, classical furnitures. 2pm, Chinese paintings and calligraphy. **Tel:** 67668866-81006/7.



Restaurants & Bars

Italian Dolce Vita at Hilton Beijing

An array of Italian antipasti, freshly baked pizzas, all you can eat pasta, freshly brewed espresso or cappuccino for 198 yuan per person. **Where:** Hilton Beijing Atrium Cafe. **When:** Monday nights from 5:30 to 9:30. **Tel:** 64662288 ext. 7406.

Polo Bar

Fine selection of cocktails, spirits, beers & wines from around the world. Happy Hour 6-8: all standard drinks, order one, drink two! **Where:** 1st floor of Harbour Plaza, Chaoyang District. **Tel:** 64362288 ext. 2615.

Le Bistro des Chateaux

Le Bistro des Chateaux has the longest bar in Beijing and an energetic Filipino band playing every night (except Mon.). Set lunch: 60 yuan (3 courses), 50 yuan (2 courses), includes your preference of appetizer, main dish or dessert. **Where:** 3 Jianguomenwai Dajie, Chaoyang District, 1st floor of Jinglun Hotel, Gu Bao Can Ting (Chinese). **Tel:** 65156826.

Robotayaki

A new concept Japanese specialty restaurant. The first restaurant in Beijing to introduce Robotayaki cuisine, open kitchen and pub restaurant concept. **Where:** IF, Holiday Inn Downtown (金都假日饭店), 98 Beilishilu, northwest corner of Fuchengmen Qiao. **When:** lunch, 12am-2:30pm; dinner, 5:30pm-midnight. **Tel:** 68338822.

Promotions Roast crispy pigeon, 16.8 yuan per piece, braised shark's fin in casserole, 78 yuan/person, braised raymond's shark's fin with abalone sauce, 138 yuan/person. **Where:** Fortune Court Chinese Restaurant. **Tel:** 65123388-2227. Lunch & dinner beef steak seafood buffet, 68 yuan/person +15% surcharge, including unlimited local soft drinks and draft beer: People over 55 get 20% discount on Sun. **Where:** Pastels Bistro Coffee Shop. **Tel:** 65123388-2223. If the bill is over 300 yuan, you will be given a gift voucher for next time. **Where:** Arirang Korean Restaurant. **Tel:** 65123388-32708. Scitech Hotel, Add: 22 Jianguomenwai Dajie, Chaoyang District. **Tel:** 65123388.

Excavation of Hanjingtang (含经堂), the former residence of Emperor Qianlong of the Qing Dynasty, began in April 2001 and will be completed in May 2002. The area under excavation is now open to visitors.

The Emperor's Pleasure Garden

By Williams

The ruins tell the story of the tragedy in 1860

Hanjingtang, is located in Changchunyuan (长春园), to the east of Yuanmingyuan (圆明园). Emperor Qianlong (1711-1799) made it his living quarters during the later years of his reign, however this jewel in the crown was sacked and looted by Anglo-French Forces in 1860, and again looted and completely destroyed by the Eight-Powers Allied Forces in 1900.

The open area in front of the complex was originally a square. It used to be surrounded by low walls, with decorative archways on the south, east and western sides. Sand covered roads divided the square into four grassed areas, where the Qing emperors used to meet foreign guests and minority nationality leaders. Large tents would be pitched when Qianlong had meals with the guests. Today, you can only find two wooden poles standing on the east and west sides, set up to indicate the approximate borders of the square.

Behind the square stand two bronze lions. These lions are recent additions, the original ones that once guarded the halls behind having disappeared long ago. Those lions were made following the design of the two standing in front of the decorative door of Jingyixuan Garden in the Forbidden City, however they were much larger.

Behind the lions are the ruins of Hanjingtang Hall, the building from which the complex gets its name.

Hanjingtang was one of the main sleeping quarters for the Qing emperors. Emperor Qianlong always came to Hanjingtang after Lantern Festival, and met foreign diplomatic envoys here on numerous occasions. Hanjingtang is the theme of 41 poems composed by Emperor Qianlong, and ten by Emperor Jiaqing.

There were once two smaller halls on either side of Hanjingtang Hall. Behind it is an artificial hill, the southern part of which was linked to the rear steps of the hall. The steps are gone, but you can still make out the brick drainage structure that ran alongside them. The paths around the artificial hill were covered with pebbles, and clay flowerpots have been found on the top of the hill.

To the east of the eastern side hall are the ruins of Xiazhulou Hall. This hall was used to store 6,000 of the 12,000 books from the Sikuquanshu (Full Encyclopedia of Four Branches of Learning). The remaining 6,000 were stored in the Wenyuange

Cultural Tour



Though it may be possible to rebuild the complex, the detail of the original will never be recovered

Photos by Zhangjizhou

Library in the Forbidden City.

To the northeast of Hanjingtang is a stage. Actors playing the part of ghosts used to appear on the stage from a basement underneath.

To the east of the whole complex is Chang (long) Street. Three days in January every year, eunuchs would act as merchants and sell various goods in 46 stalls set up along the street to concubines who could come to shop there.

From the ruins that have been excavated, you can see how magnificent the whole complex once was.

Historical relics discovered under the ruins record the life of the imperial court members



Fragment of a gray pottery mold, which was used to make vessels for feeding pet crickets

There is a small exhibition hall beside the complex, displaying some relics recovered from the ruins. The remains of a jade vessel bears the calligraphy of Qianlong on one side. It tells of the relationship between the dragon and the cloud, symbolizing the relationship between emperor and officials.

Other highlights of the exhibition include the lid of a floor drain, three pieces of clamshell and a gray pottery mold. The pieces of clamshell were decorations for furniture, and serial numbers can be found on the back of each piece. They are extremely fragile; it is a miracle that they have survived.



The basement of the stage. Actors playing ghosts rested in it before they appeared on the stage from underneath

wall of the mold; as a result, the calabash would bear the same characters.

It's a good idea to spend a day in the excavation site of the Hanjingtang Complex. You can learn much about Yuanmingyuan and its destruction in 1860.

To rebuild or to protect?

You can also contribute your views on whether the government should attempt to restore the whole complex, or simply protect the ruins, on the poll forms provided by the excavation administration.

Where: 28, Qinghuaxilu (清华西路) **How to get there:** bus 346 from the Summer Palace to Yuanmingyuan; or drive along Xisanhuanlu (西三环) to Yiheyuanlu (颐和园路), turn right, drive for another ten minutes to the entrance of Yuanmingyuan **Admittance:** 10 yuan

By Williams

The old manor house of the Changs, in Chewang Village, Shanxi Province, is said to be the largest ancient residential compound in China.

The Changs accumulated great wealth by selling tea to Russia during the reign of Qing Dynasty emperors Yongzheng and Qianlong. The family began the construction of their residence from 1755 (the 20th year of the reign of the Emperor Qianlong). It occupies an area of 20 hectares, featuring 80 courtyards, 50 multi-floor mansions and 3,500 rooms. A 4-kilometer wall surrounds the buildings, with eight gates at regular intervals.

The fortunes of the family declined with the end of the Qing Dynasty, and after they moved out, the manor was badly damaged. Only one quarter of it was kept, in very poor condition.

The local government started renovation work on the surviving part of the manor in 2000. Now, many of the buildings and gardens have been restored. The complex now occupies an area of 120,000 sq. meters.

The Changs collected large quantities of calligraphy works, including the handwriting models composed by the famous Tingyulou and Shiyunxuan calligraphy institutes and the works of Hezhizhang, Guoziyi and Zhangzhao. There are also 44 calligraphy works by various emperors on display in the Imperial Calligraphy Works Pavilion.

How to get there: bus from Lizeqiao (丽泽桥) to Taiyuan (6 hours, 121 yuan), then taxi to Chewang Village (车辆村 20 yuan), Dongyang Town (东阳镇)

Admittance: 60 yuan



Chinawide



The Changs were devoted to education in the later years, calligraphy works can be found everywhere in the manor



Stone carving of an incense burner

Old Manor of the Changs

Outdoor Actions



Rock Climbing in Baihe Canyon

By Williams

Baihe River (白河), the main source of Miyun Reservoir, runs through a 40-kilometer-long canyon in Miyun County. The steep mountains on either side of the canyon provide many an ideal spot for mountain climbing. The most popular site is located 30 kilometers from the county town, 9.6 kilometers from Heilongtan (Black Dragon Pool) Scenic Spot.

The huge granite rock here offers seven climbing routes at present, and anchors & hangers have been fixed. You can choose the appropriate route according to your skill and experience.

Route 1, 24 meters high, is for the beginners. Anchors are available along the whole route.

Route 2, 11 meters high, features 6 anchors along the route. You might have trouble between the first and the second anchor.

Route 3, 11 meters high, features 6 anchors through the

route. This route is suitable for skilled climbers.

Route 4, 20 meters high, features a large crack and some small cracks. Anchors are available along the whole route.

Route 5, 11 meters high, features 6 anchors along the route and two destinations. If you choose the right way you will get to the destination easily, otherwise you may have big trouble.

Route 6, 13 meters high, features 5 anchors along the route and one destination. It is rated as a hard to difficult climb.

Route 7, 13 meters high, features a crack with width varying from 1 to 5 centimeters and two anchors at the destination.

How to get there: bus from Dongzhimen to Miyun County (ten yuan), then taxi to the site (40-yuan). Tell the driver to take you to Dashitou (Big Rock). You will pass Yunmengxia, Heilongtan and Tianxiadiyipu en route.

Culinary & Cultural Delights at Dajue Temple

Leisurely Getaways

By Jiang Zhong

Dajue Temple (大觉寺) is located at the foot of Mount Yangtai (阳台山), northwest of Beijing. It was originally built in 1068 During the Liao Dynasty.

The magnificent temple faces east, and is built according to the terrain. Arranged from the east to west are a series of four courtyards featuring the Heavenly King, Mahavira, Amitayus and Dabei (Great Mercy) halls. The Buddhist statues in the halls are exquisitely shaped. Moreover, the temple boasts a large number of cultural relics.

The temple is quiet and tastefully laid out, with a stretch of level, fertile land and in front and densely wooded peaks at back. A clear stream flows through the temple all year round. A ginkgo and a magnolia are the oldest trees of their kinds in Beijing.

You can also relax and enjoy a tea ceremony in Minghui Teahouse (明慧茶院) in the southern part of the temple.

For those who require something a little more substantial than tea and cakes, Shaoxing Restaurant, part of the Minghui Teahouse, serves the famous (and very delicious) Shaoxing cuisine and wine.

If you want to spend the night, perhaps a good idea after all that Shaoxing wine, there are some very nicely renovated apartments, which were once part of the Dajue Temple. The charges range from 280 yuan to 4,000 yuan for a VIP villa.

How to get there:

By bus: bus 346, 330 from the Summer Palace to Wenquan (温泉), then bus 903 to Dajue Temple (40 minutes); then walk for ten minutes along the mountain road in the west to the temple

By car: Turn right at the first crossroad to the north of the Summer Palace. After a traffic light you will come to a village, drive through the village, you will come to a T intersection. Turn right, drive for about twenty minutes, you will come to a traffic light and a bridge. Turn left onto the bridge, then right at the other end of the bridge, you will get onto Heishan Road (黑山扈路). Drive along the road for about thirty minutes until you come to another T intersection named Bei'anhelukou (北安河路口), turn left, drive for ten minutes, and you will come to a branch road. Turn right, drive for 5 minutes to the sign of Dajue Temple.

Admittance: 10 yuan



Old pine trees were the everlasting theme of Chinese temples



The oldest ginkgo of Beijing



The white stupa standing in the rare part of the temple is hugged by a tall pine trees